

JPRS 83415

5 May 1983

Latin America Report

No. 2674

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BRIEFS

HYDROELECTRIC PLANT AUTHORIZED--The Bolivian Chamber of Deputies yesterday approved the bill authorizing the state to seek financial resources for the construction of Cachuela Esperanza hydroelectric plant which will supply power to Guayaramerin and Riberalta and excess energy could be sold to Brazil. The full cost of the project is estimated at \$12 or \$13 million. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Apr 83 PY]

CSO: 3348/322

AMOCO'S ROLE IN NATION'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY DISCUSSED

Link to Texaco Problem

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Ed Wynn Brant and Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Government is wooing Amoco to take part in buying or leasing Texaco's billion dollar refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre in a joint venture.

Late February, the Government invited Amoco, an exploration and producing oil company operating off the East Coast, to join in a venture to run the refinery since Texaco had indicated that it was uneconomical to do so.

It seems that Amoco has taken up the offer. Last week experts from abroad arrived in Trinidad to assess the processing potential of the refinery which has a maximum throughput of 355,000 barrels daily.

The refinery, like most around the world, is operating below capacity and last week the catcracker was shut down to facilitate maintenance.

The assets of Texaco in Trinidad and Tobago are conservatively put at \$2 billion. Over the past six months the company has been closing down its producing fields as the demand for petroleum slackened on the U.S. market.

In talks with Amoco, it is understood that Government has not given any clear indication whether it wants the US-based multinational to hold majority or minority interest or full ownership.

But a ministerial source said last night that Amoco would be asked to take part in a joint venture. Amoco and the Government are already in a joint-venture project — Fertrin — manufacturing ammonia and fertilisers at Point Lisas.

According to the source, the State and Amoco are to meet later this month after the company has studied its feasibility report on oil refining and marketing in the country.

The new twist in the petroleum industry has alarmed the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union whose Presi-

dent, Mr George Weekes, is to raise the issue with Minister of Labour Errol Mahabir today.

TOUR OF REFINERY

A source close to Texaco said that an Amoco team which included President and General Manager Gary N. Powers toured the refinery. They were shown around by Mr Eddie Limchoy, Deputy Managing Director, and other Texaco officials.

Contacted for comment, Texaco confirmed that Amoco executives toured the refinery from March 23 to acquaint themselves with the scope of the operations. Texaco declined further comment.

Last night Amoco's Public Relations Manager, Mr Frank Arlen, said that "as a result of a request from the Government, Amoco (the US-based refining company) was evaluating, refining and marketing operations, not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but in the Caribbean.

"In this context our refining affiliates have visited both the Texaco and Trintec refineries and held discussions with various persons connected with refining and marketing in the region."

Informed sources said that Mr Powers left for Houston, Texas, to report to the parent company but Mr Arlen said that the President was on private business.

Texaco workers said they feared the company was hastening its plan to get rid of them to pave the way for Amoco to take over the refinery.

Mr Arlen said this was far fetched since Texaco was talking retrenchment for more than two years.

"It is hardly likely that Amoco would want to purchase a refinery at this time since the company has shut down three others abroad and a fourth is to go soon," Mr Arlen said.

"I acknowledge we have been approached by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to look at some aspects of refining in the country," he added.

Government will urge Amoco to take up some equity in Texaco, according to an informed source.

Texaco executives from New York and a Government inter-ministerial team are continuing talks on the future of the company in Trinidad.

Minister's Comments

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

MINISTER of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives Mr. Errol Mahabir, yesterday spoke about a task force appointed by Amoco to obtain data on oil refining in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Mahabir, in an interview at his San Fernando office, was questioned about Amoco's interest in the petroleum industry in this country. He said in the 1983 Budget speech the Minister of Finance had indicated "that in formulating a new refinery structure, discussions must encompass all the oil companies operating locally".

He said that it was in implemen-

tation of this statement Amoco was brought into the picture. Amoco in fact "appointed a task force to obtain certain data relating to the refining industry in T&T".

The Minister said he was aware that the task force had already held discussions with Trintoc and had paid a visit to Texaco's Pointe-a-Pierre refinery.

Asked whether the interim arrangements to supply crude to Texaco's Pointe-a-Pierre refinery by Trintoc was extended for another three months, Mr Mahabir said the matter was still under consideration

He said in the meantime Trintoc agreed to provide crude oil to Texaco on a loan basis for seven days.

Texaco's catcracker is down for emergency repairs.

It is understood that Texaco is moving to put into operation its No. 8 topping plant to take care of the crude from Trintoc in order to keep the flow of petroleum products.

Yesterday afternoon, activities at the Pointe-a-Pierre bond were normal with petroleum products including gasoline, and Lpg being delivered as usual.

BARBADOS' PROBLEMS WITH CARICOM'S CMCF LEAD TO WITHDRAWAL

Senator's Criticism

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 29 Mar 83 p 24

[Text]

SENATOR Wendell McClean made a call in the Senate yesterday for Barbados to pull out of the CARICOM Multi-Lateral Clearing Facility (CMCF).

The Facility, a regional trade mechanism, owes the Barbados Government some \$112 million.

If an early settlement could not be made by the territories concerned, Barbados had no alternative but to get out of the facility, McClean said.

He was speaking during debate on a Resolution to approve a Bds \$14 million balance of payments support loan from the United States.

McClean said he knew that there was much sentiment attached to the CMCF, and it had contributed towards regional integration.

After referring to the functioning of the CMCF, McClean declared: "Barbados should not hesitate much longer in terms of taking action to protect the Barbadian economy."

He, however supported the Resolution, noting that it would go some way in alleviating the problem.

Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith, who moved the

passing of the measure, conceded in reply to McClean that nobody in his right mind could agree that the CMCF was working the way it should in solving the problems associated with CARICOM trade.

The reason why the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago was asked to take control of the CMCF, Griffith said, was because of that country's export earnings from the oil industry; and they were in a position to carry the greatest burden.

If Barbados withdrew from the facility, Griffith said, this would be a terrible step. It would affect the export position of Barbados, and the ability of the manufacturing sector of this country, Griffith said.

He noted that there were several attempts to revise the CMCF agreement so that it could be more beneficial to the countries concerned.

But he said that CMCF was not a perfect arrangement.

Griffith added that if the suggestion for Barbados to withdraw from the facility was followed, there would be significant levels of unemployment here "which we as a Government cannot afford to have."

Announcement in Senate

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 30 Mar 83 p 44

[Text] Barbados decided yesterday to stop regional trading under the CARICOM Multi-lateral Clearing Facility (CMCF).

Senator Nigel Barrow, chief spokesman for Government in the Senate's Appropriation Bill debate, made the announcement in his winding-up speech to the chamber last night.

In announcing the halting of operations, he noted that the facility had reached its limit of US\$100 million last week and that last weekend the governor of the Central Bank of Barbados had informed his Trinidad and Tobago counterpart that no further trade could be done through the facility [The Trinidad Central Bank administers the facility).

Instead, arrangements will now have to be made to settle accounts in hard currency, and trade will be on a bilateral basis.

The surpluses under the facility, as they affect Barbados were in the order of US\$50 million with Trinidad; US\$18 million with the Eastern Caribbean; and US\$2 million with Jamaica. Guyana on the other hand has an accumulated surplus with Barbados of over US\$6 million.

The one exception to the decision to use the CMCF is that Barbados has agreed to accept exports from Guyana through the facility.

The Barbados Government is entering negotiations with Trinidad to recover the large deficit. While at a meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank in Panama last week, Prime Ministers Tom Adams and George Chambers held discussions on this and other CARICOM issues. Minister of Trade, Bernard St. John, has also been discussing the matter with his Trinidad counterpart.

Monday, Senator Wendell McClean called on the Barbados Government to pull out of the facility.

He told the Senate: "Barbados should not hesitate much longer in terms of taking action to protect the Barbadian economy."

McClean said that if settlement of the debt to Barbados could not be worked out, "we would have no alternative."

Meanwhile the decision of the Central Bank of Jamaica not to trade in Barbados has been rescinded. Before the crisis between the two countries which led to the halting of trade, it is no longer in Jamaica's favour, but has evened out, with trade being conducted on a bastard barter system.

Search for Solution

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Government said yesterday it will continue to press for a solution to the problems presented by the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF).

Prime Minister Tom Adams gave this assurance in the House of Assembly yesterday while commenting on Barbados' foreign holdings tied up in the regionally-owned clearing facility.

Mr. Adams had given a run down on the performance of the economy since Barbados entered a Stand-by arrangement programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The programme started last October.

Mr. Adams who is also Minister of Finance and Planning, said that while the performance of the economy and the level of foreign reserves give some cause for satisfaction there remained the consideration that a considerable part of Barbados' foreign holdings was tied up in the CMCF.

He said too that in the ordinary course of affairs the holdings would be more than ample to maintain an even keel without resort to foreign borrowing.

"But in the circumstances, the Government still considers it prudent to maintain its programme with the IMF and obtain the balance of Special Drawing Right (SDR) 19 million or approximately Barbados \$42.75 million to which Barbados would be entitled between now and March 1984 under the programme negotiated last year", Mr. Adams said.

He added: "In the meantime the Government will continue to press for a solution to the problems presented by the CMCF".

CSO: 3298/522

CARICOM MINISTERS DISCUSS SCIENCE, INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

CARICOM MINISTERS responsible for Science and Technology cleared the way last week at their first meeting here in Kingston for technical work to begin on two "major comprehensive projects focussing on agro-industrial development and the development of science and technology information systems."

The meeting at the New Kingston Hotel lasted from April 5 to 8, and was attended by delegations from the 12 Caricom territories and the Bahamas, as well as the British Virgin Islands, the Netherland Antilles and Suriname.

A release at the end of the meeting said that the delegations "engaged in a detailed exchange of views on philosophical, conceptual and policy issues in the field, and underlined their consciousness of the intimate link between science and technology and the development process."

According to the release, the meeting worked out a plan of action to ensure effective follow-up on its decision, and set up a five-member Ministerial Committee comprising Ministers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, with a fifth Minister to be named later.

The meeting also set up an Interim Co-ordinating Committee, with the CARICOM Secretariat as convenor, comprising representatives from relevant Caribbean institutions and international agencies. This sub-committee which is to report to the Ministerial Sub-Committee before August of this year, has been charged with the task of identifying priority areas for project development, the mechanisms and strategies

for implementation, and sources of financing.

MEANWHILE the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which has also been involved from the outset in the arrangements for the organization of the meeting by making resources available, has already indicated its support for the concept of the Ministers' decisions and is currently studying how that organization can help in implementation.

The Centre for Industrial Development in Brussels, Belgium, has said it is interested in discussing possible assistance in three main areas viz the choice, acquisition and transfer of technology, scientific and technological information and in the field of energy.

In so far as long term planning is concerned, the release said, the meeting agreed to the holding of a technical workshop at an early date, to undertake further analysis of the range of issues covered in the conference working document. This work will identify, in consultation with individual Caribbean

countries, specific additional projects in the medium and long term.

Before the final adjournment delegations accepted the offer of the Minister of Education of Dominica, the Hon. Charles Maynard, to host the next Ministerial meeting the next 18 months.

At the meeting's closing ceremony, the chairman of the meeting, Jamaica's Minister without Portfolio in the Prime Minister's Office, Senator the Hon Dr. Ronald Irvine, who is responsible for science and technology, referred to the general consensus that had been reached and said that the overall objective had been successfully met.

CSO: 3298/515

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO, JAMAICA DISCUSS LATTER'S CURRENCY SYSTEM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Apr 83 pp 1, 17

[Text]

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO manufacturers have been called upon by that country's Government to "put forward their case" in relation to problems they have been experiencing as a result of the two-tiered currency system introduced by the Jamaican Government in January.

A group of manufacturers, headed by the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA), were on Thursday included in the 11-man Trinidad and Tobago delegation holding bilateral talks since then with a 6-member Jamaican delegation in Port of Spain.

According to Mr. Frank Barsotti, Permanent Secretary in Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Finance and Planning, inclusion of the TTMA members in the discussion would let the Jamaican team understand "quite clearly how Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers and industries are being affected by the two-tiered system". He said "We feel that it is a good opportunity for Jamaica to hear from the manufacturers exactly how the two-tiered system affects them and to get a response from the Jamaican team". Mr. Barsotti said that he was sure that the meeting, which continued yesterday, would examine all the problems and come to some "hopefully satisfactory conclusion".

THE JAMAICAN TEAM is being led by Mr. Frank Francis, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. The other members are Dr. Headley Brown, Director of the National Planning Agency; Dr. Kenneth Rattray, Solicitor-General; Mr. C.T. Brown, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Jamaica; Mrs. Ellen Bogle, Jamaican High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Kirk Phillips, Jamaica Trade

Commissioner to Trinidad; and Dr. Paul Chen-Young, Economic Consultant to the Government of Jamaica.

Members of the Trinidad team include TTMA General Manager, Mr. Clive Teelucksingh, and Vice-President, Mr. Edward Habib; as well as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Fung Bobb.

Talks began on Thursday at the Ministry of Finance on several areas of mutual concern which were pinpointed at last year's CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting in Ocho Rios and again this year when Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers and Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga met in St Lucia at a Heads of Government Meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Senior Trinidad and Tobago officials who accompanied Mr. Chambers to St Lucia are also included in that country's team at the current talks in Port of Spain.

According to TTMA officers, Thursday's meeting was the first time that Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers were speaking with such a "high-level" Jamaican team. Mr. Barsotti hailed the meeting as the product of "the initiative" of Prime Ministers Chambers and Seaga.

THE GLEANER understands that talks yesterday touched on a wide range of subjects including the effects of regional off-shore industries, false labelling, and trade in fertilizers, steel, cement, lime stone, insecticide and other products.

High on the agenda, too, was the roll-over of existing debt to Trinidad, trade credits, the oil facility offered by the Trinidad and Tobago Government, and mutual access to capital markets.

Emphasis was also placed on co-operation in production and processing, marketing of agricultural products, research and development, and quality control as well as joint venture investment, private investment and double taxation, oil refining capacity and air transportation.

A crisis in CARICOM trade had developed over the institutionalisation of the parallel market in Jamaica which led to a response by Barbados to float the Barbadian dollar against the Jamaican dollar, and a decision by the Trinidad Government to put all items of imports from CARICOM countries on the negative list on specific licences.

Almost all manufactured goods from Barbados and Trinidad would be imported into Jamaica on the higher parallel rate (which fluctuates from day to day, but usually at some 50 percent above the official rate of U.S.\$1 to J\$ 1.78) and subject to the importers including them on their normal import quotas.

The Jamaican Government announced ten days ago that talks would be held at both the political and private sector levels with counterparts in Barbados and Trinidad. The political talks are now scheduled for Jamaica next week.

JAMAICAN MINISTER COMMENTS ON CARIBBEAN AIR TRANSPORT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

KINGSTON Jamaica Tuesday (CANA) — Jamaica, which operates one of five major air carriers owned by Caribbean Community (CARICOM) states, foresees no problems coming out of current efforts to rationalise regional transport, Government Minister, Parnell Charles said.

"We don't have any problems and we don't anticipate any problems arising out of the discussions," the Transport Minister told journalists.

The need to rationalise regional air services has been in the past a contentious Caribbean issue with some states rejecting Trinidad and Tobago's bid to have its airline, BWIA, designated the official CARICOM carrier.

The loss-making BWIA operates most key routes between the Caribbean and the metropolitan countries and is important to the tourist industries of several of the East Caribbean states.

But at their summit here in November, CARICOM heads of government established a committee to work on a cooperation agreement, which Mr. Charles said would be placed before the leaders at their next summit in July.

Last August the Jamaican Minister had said that the only rationalisation of regional air transport would come through competition in the market place, but he said today: "I

now say that rationalisation will come by both competition and co-operation at the CARICOM level."

Apart from Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados have airlines that ply extra-regional routes and the 12-member community collectively owns LIAT (1974) Limited, the Antigua-based carrier that hops along the East Caribbean island chain.

A major component of the cooperation agreement being drafted would be a clause that would allow one CARICOM country to designate another's airline its national carrier.

Such an agreement, for which CARICOM would seek recognition by other states would conceivably work in BWIA's favour as those CARICOM members without airlines would most likely designate BWIA their carrier, thus giving the Trinidad and Tobago company greater leverage in route rights negotiations.

Mr. Charles was reluctant to discuss the implications of the overall package, which could include sharing offices and bulk purchasing fuel, but on the national carrier issue, he declared: "We expect no hostility."

The Transport Minister also confirmed that the Government has told Air Jamaica that it could not expect the level of budgetary support the airline was seeking for losses expected during 1983-84.

Mr. Charles did not say how much money the airline was seeking, but he stated: "The government has told Air Jamaica that what they are seeking is not available and that they will have to make internal adjustments."

It will get a portion, the Minister said.

The carrier is now preparing its 1983-84 operational budget, which company officials say was last year in the region of J\$200 million (J\$1 equal 56 cents US), and according to unofficial sources here, had been projecting shortfalls in the region of J\$15 million.

Air Jamaica last year lost J\$25 million, 10 million more than originally anticipated.

Further losses in the coming year may force it to speed up its streamlining operations, which have seen it significantly cut staff, drop routes and park fuel-inefficient aircraft.

Air Jamaica now has accumulated losses of over J\$70 million and with the projections for further shortfalls it is apparent that the management will have to push back its timetable of returning to profitability by 1983-84.

Mr. Charles said that the government's continuing funding of the airline did not indicate any flip-flop in the administration's policy of removing state enterprises from the budget, adding that the companies needed time to recover their health.

Air Jamaica is one of importance to Jamaica's tourist industry, moving about 55 per cent of the visitors who come here.

SALVADORAN LEFT-WING REPRESENTATIVES TOUR CARIBBEAN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Apr 83 p 3

[From the anonymous column "The Listening Post," signed "The Listener"]

[Text]

I hear that some delegates from the leftwing
guenilla movement in El Salvador have been seen
travelling around the Caribbean. I have no informa-
tion about their being in Jamaica, but they have been
in other territories and some acts of terrorism or as
others would call it "liberation" such as bombings in
an island near to us are not unrelated with their
presence. You have to look out!

CSO: 3298/515

EDITORIAL SCORES ANTIGUAN SLANT ON CARIBBEAN DEFENSE

Bridgetown CARIBBEAN CONTACT in English Apr 83 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE Eastern Caribbean governments which are signatories to the Regional Security and Military Cooperation Agreement, formulated in Dominica last October, owe it to themselves and the people of the region to now clear the air about the real intention of this joint pact, in the light of recent public statements attributed to the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. VERE BIRD.

In what has been seen as a typical "mouth-open-story-jump-out" situation, Bird has interpreted the five-nation *Memorandum of Understanding* of Dominica to mean that this regional defence mechanism, can be an instrument to crush internal disorders where such developments pose a threat to a "democratic government". In a word, "interference" in the domestic affairs of sovereign member nations.

We never understood the *Memorandum of Understanding*, signed in Roseau by Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent for the creation of a joint security and military co-operation mechanism to have as an objective the rescuing of a member government threatened by local opponents with internal destabilisation, whether by extra-constitutional means or else. Yet, this is precisely what Bird seems to be saying. (See Bird's warning on page 13).

It is pitiable enough to witness the Bird Government begging, as it is currently doing, for US economic aid to "combat the spread of communism" in this region. It is a government, as is now well known, that can never hope to erase its complicity with the notorious Space Research Corporation in using Antigua as the testing ground for sophisticated military hardware for apartheid South Africa. But when Bird assumes the right to publicly give his interpretation of the five-nation Security and Military Agreement, then the other member governments are faced with the choice of either allowing their own silence to be treated as concurrence with the Antiguan Prime Minister, or to make clear that this proposed regional "defence force" is not to deter internal coups, since this is entirely a domestic matter.

Six months after they signed the Roseau Memorandum, (details of which were reported in December 1982 *Contact*), providing for joint co-operation in a number of areas—including immigration control, fishery protection, protection of off-shore installations, assisting each other in national emergencies and fighting off threats to national security—not a single signatory government has invited a public debate on the issue and the Memorandum is yet to win parliamentary approval.

It is the right of Bird and other heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to be critical about seizure of power by the gun. Bird himself has referred to Grenada as an example. We also favour change of government by democratic means. But no government in our region has the right to use its resources and to collaborate with others against a fellow Caribbean country, under the guise of responding to a request of a "friendly, democratic government", threatened with an internal security problem! Surely, there is a clear difference between giving assistance to a CARICOM partner country to fight off external aggression and collaborating to prevent the nationals of a country removing, by "undemocratic" means, a ruling party from office!

Bird's outburst makes it all the more urgent for full-scale debates—in and out of Parliament—on this *Memorandum of Understanding*.

CSO: 3298/515

PROSPECTS DEEMED POOR FOR NEW SUGAR AGREEMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Apr 83 p 5

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Tues., (Cana): CARIBBEAN and Latin American countries' hopes that a new International Sugar Agreement (ISA) will be brought into force at the beginning of next year are slim, according to the latest issue of the "Latin America Commodities Report," received here. Some progress was made at talks held in London last month on the shape of a new pact, the newsletter said, but according to delegates, the basic philosophy of a new pact was still not settled.

"Though optimism exists that differences over key points can be satisfactorily resolved at the full negotiating session, scheduled for May 2 to 20, in Geneva, it now seems inevitable that at least one more session will be required to draft the new pact. September is the most likely date for this," the report said.

"Hopes, therefore, that a new ISA might be ready in time to be brought into force at the beginning of next year are now slim.

"Nevertheless, despite the difficulties that still lie ahead, Latin American delegates expressed

satisfaction about the result of the meeting, held at the headquarters of the International Sugar Organization (ISO), and optimism over the negotiator's eventual chances of success."

The report said perhaps the most important step forward, in the opinion of some delegates, was the fact that the European Economic Community (EEC) representatives arrived at the meeting with a mandate to negotiate.

"In fact, the Council of Ministers in Brussels only agreed to the mandate on the morning the talks began — a move shortening the odds on

the chances of agreement that had previously seemed ominously long, in view of France's initial insistence that the community endorse a buffer-stock arrangement, instead of the three-tier market support system favoured by most other EEC members," the newsletter said.

"However, despite the EEC breakthrough, most ISO members are still opposed to many aspects of the EEC's scheme. This was one of the more unsatisfactory points to emerge from the meeting...."

Without some mechanism to prevent these exporters from offloading such surpluses, some negotiators believe that there would be a persistent danger of a price war that would undermine the new ISA's effectiveness, the report said.

In an attempt to reach a compromise, Brazil had advanced the idea that, while retaining some of the aspects of the present pact, provisions could be modified to make them more successful.

CSO: 3298/522

CARIBBEAN TOURISM SLUMP BLAMED ON POOR SERVICE

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica, Tuesday, (CANA) — The chairman of the Dominica Tourist Board, Dermott Southwell, has said that tourism in the Caribbean was on the slide not only because prices had increased but the quality of service had decreased significantly.

Speaking in a radio programme Sunday night, Mr. Southwell who was a member of Dominica's delegation to an international tourism conference in Berlin earlier this month, said luxury hotels that provided continued good services did not complain about the drop in tourist arrivals to the region.

He said worldwide the tourism business "is still flourishing and what has happened is that people have changed destinations."

In the case of the Caribbean, he said, it "seems to have grown out and have got too big and mature to attract tourists in the mass they used to attract in the 1950s and 60s."

"Prices have escalated, while services have declined and this is a clear indication of discussions held in Germany services in the Caribbean

have declined in the accommodation business and people are showing on the records that the luxury hotels have not lost any business", he added.

Mr. Southwell said many people were now going to South East Asia because they were receiving good services there.

He said that in the case of Dominica, tourist board officials had undertaken while in Europe to visit Paris in an effort to boost cruise ship arrivals here.

Mr. Southwell said that last January over 3 000 holiday-makers had arrived here by boat but that "it was pathetic to see that the only people who were putting something out (for sale) were two gentlemen, both selling local handicraft."

"It is clear in our minds that we have to re-educate the arts and crafts people about how to take advantage of the number of people calling here on cruise ships," he said, indicating that various small items could be sold during these visits.

MAGAZINE ASSESSES FUTURE FOR BANANA-GROWING COUNTRIES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

Banana growing countries in the Caribbean and South America are forecasting moderate production increases over the next two years in view of the numerous problems, including hurricane devastation, with which the industry has had to cope within the last five years.

According to the March-April issue of the "Courier" magazine, the availability of bananas for export in the English speaking Caribbean, namely Jamaica and the Windward Islands, should be around 280 000 tons by 1984-85.

The publication of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) grouping and the European Economic Community (EEC) forecast that export availabilities of the fruit in South America could be up to around 2.6 million tons by 1984-85.

Colombia, Ecuador and Suriname are among the major banana growing states in South America.

Most of the bananas which are grown in the region are

sold in Europe, particularly the United Kingdom.

The publication said banana production in Jamaica and the Windward Islands — Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent — had suffered adverse weather conditions for a long period.

After severe droughts in the early 1970s and some recovery afterwards, two hurricanes in succession in 1979 and 1980 ravaged the banana crop. Hence, at the beginning of the 1980s exports are well below the levels of a decade earlier, the "Courier" said, adding:

"Both areas (Jamaica and the Windwards) have been engaging in replanting, improving growing conditions, yields and quality of fruit. For these reasons, and on the assumption that the ravages of hurricane David and Allen will be overcome, it is estimated that export availabilities around 1984-85 could recover about 120 000 and 180 000 tons respectively in the two areas."

The ACP-EEC publication said the two Caribbean

French islands — Guadeloupe and Martinique — have also been hit severely by the two hurricanes and hence their plans to improve production condition and quality of fruit had been retarded.

Export availabilities for Guadeloupe and Martinique by 1984-85 are estimated at 150 000 and 200 000 tons respectively, but these estimates may be optimistic in view of the hurricane damage of 1979 and 1980.

Following a request by inter-governmental group on bananas at its seventh session, the food and agriculture organisation (FAO) of the United Nations secretariat carried out, during the second half of 1981, an assessment of the medium-term outlook for world trade in bananas.

This medium-term outlook on which the "Courier" projections are made covers the period up to 1984-85. (CANA)

CSO: 3298/522

CUBAN AID FOR NICARAGUAN SUGAR MILL DESCRIBED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 3 Apr 83 p 12

[Article by Antonio Paneque Brizuelas]

[Text]



THE CONSTRUCTION of a sugar mill in Nicaragua constitutes a historical event for that country as well as for Cuba, for this is the first sugar mill built by our country abroad after more than 20 years of construction work as part of the Revolution.

The building of this sugar mill in a sister republic is the result of an agreement characterized by favorable financing terms and a spirit of internationalist assistance.

The new sugar mill will facilitate an almost 50-percent increase in Nicaragua's sugar production. This is the largest project to be built in that country since the victory of the Sandinista Revolution and constitutes one more example of the Cuban people's solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

THE TIPITAPA-MALACATOYA SUGAR PROJECT

In September 1980 the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Nicaragua asked the Institute of Sugar Industry Projects (IPROYAZ) and TECNOAZUCAR, the exporting enterprise of the Ministry of the Sugar Industry of Cuba, to

study the possibilities for the construction of a sugar mill in Nicaragua.

A commission designated by the Ministry of the Sugar Industry studied the various locations in Nicaragua suitable for the construction of the mill and decided on the area known as Tipitapa-Malacatoya, some 37 kilometers from Managua. The decision was based on the proximity to the capital and the conditions of the soil, which were considered favorable given the results that had been obtained in raising various crops there.

In April 1981 the economic feasibility study began. This was one of the most important phases of the project, in which the capabilities and experience of Cuban technicians and specialists were put to the test. The study included an appraisal of the natural and material conditions of the area, the population and possible solutions to the various problems that might arise in the process of construction.

EARTHQUAKE-PROOF CONSTRUCTION

The plans for the sugar mill are based on those used in the construction of mills in Cuba at present, with adaptations to meet the conditions in Nicaragua. One of its distinctive features is the absence of a railroad system. The mill

will be located in the center of its agricultural area and the distance from the cane fields to the mill will be between five and six kilometers. Therefore, transportation of sugarcane from the fields to the mill will be done by trucks.

"This makes for a notable savings in hauling as compared to the vast investments that would have to be made in building a railroad system," asserted the head of the group of Cuban specialists working on the project.

This mill is being constructed in an earthquake zone, although it has the lowest risk level of all the areas studied. One of the changes in the construction plan designed to meet this special need is that the mill will have four short smokestacks instead of the large single one used in Cuban mills.

In selecting the site with the least possible earthquake risk, the Academy of Sciences and the Enterprise for Applied Research of Villa Clara, both from Cuba, and the Seismic Institute and the Ministry of Housing of Nicaragua worked jointly on a study of geological conditions, earthquake risks and soil mechanics.

MILL'S FEATURES

Between 60 and 70 percent of the equipment that will be installed in the mill is produced in Cuba and the rest in other countries, chiefly of the socialist community. The industrial project is divided into five main sections: power plant; auxiliary services; warehouse; machine and

repair shops; and the administration and other buildings.

The mill will go into operation in the 1984-85 harvest, working at 30 percent capacity. Production will rise to 50 percent of capacity the following harvest and by the third year the mill will be working at full capacity.

Production capacity per harvest is estimated at 110 000 tons (average yield of 9.5) with a daily grinding capacity of 7000 tons. The production plans for final molasses call for 45 000 tons.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Fifty percent of the mill's cane fields is composed of black earth called *sonoculte*, very similar to the Bayamo clay found in Cuba. It is a very fertile soil, but it must be drained and worked carefully and always requires irrigation.

Originally, the irrigation plans envisaged the utilization of the water from Lake Managua and Lake Nicaragua, both of which are very large and located near the mill site. But the idea was discarded when an analysis of the water of Lake Nicaragua showed a high boron content. Moreover, raising the waters of Lake Nicaragua to a height of 45 meters would involve an enormous investment.

"The problem was solved with the construction — also by Cubans — of an impounding dam for the use of ground water through a sprinkler-type irrigation system. The dam's impounding capacity is estimated at 100 million cubic meters," said Cuban agricultural expert Bernardo de la Peña, who was the coordinator of the agricultural aspects of the economic feasibility study.

The irrigation system, being introduced for the first time in Nicaragua, consists of 203 central-pivot sprayers, each of which will be in operation in an area of 100 hectares. Each of these sprinkler systems can irrigate 80 hectares in 24 hours.

We saw a test run of this system and it was quite an experience to watch the arms of the

sprayer rotating slowly on their axes as the water covered a radius of some 500 meters.

NICARAGUAN AND CUBAN CANE

The first step in ensuring the planting of some 15 000 hectares to sugarcane was to set up an experimental field planted to Nicaraguan and Cuban strains.

One of the recommendations of the feasibility study was that only five percent of the cane planted be of Cuban sugarcane varieties and that the rest of the cane consist of the types traditionally used in Nicaragua, since the latter have proved efficient under local conditions.

Considering that the Tipitapa-Malacotoya region had always been dedicated to cattle raising and the growing of rice, the growing of sugarcane there is an entirely new experience. Since the terrain is suitable for the use of machines, 90 percent of the cane will be cut with harvesters.

The new sugar mill will facilitate a 48-percent increase in Nicaragua's sugar production. There are six sugar mills in the country at present, only one of which is privately owned.

The project calls for an investment of over 212 million dollars, 94.9 million for the mill itself and the rest for the irrigation system, the dam, roads, agriculture and administration buildings.

The agreement calls for Cuba to provide technical advice, take charge of the installation of the technology and organize joint brigades composed of Cuban technicians and skilled workers and Nicaraguan workers.

LABOR ORGAN OPPOSES ANY TAMPERING WITH FREEDOM OF PRESS

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 23 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

It was very alarming to hear on the news over A.B.S. T.V. and Radio that two very junior Ministers in the A.L.P. Government have been hinting at public meetings they intend to have a look at the 'Press Laws with a view of amending them, because one of the opposition newspapers is slandering the good name of ministers and telling a whole pack of lies on them. So what's new?

If you take a look at the back of this newspaper you would observe me Robin Bascut as the Acting Editor. You know why? Simply because of articles published by politicians and others which appeared to be quite harmless to the layman, the editor has been sued by person like George Walter and one of two others. The present Editor who is also General Secretary of the A.T.L.U.

has also been sued by Guyanese born Brian Gonzales for \$50,000.00 for an article in which it was mentioned that certain people like to boast about having other people in their pocket and some people backing Halstead with his newspaper bond when he "took a look at the Press Laws of Antigua and came up with the newspaper Act.

Why then can't ministers and others who feel abused or slandered take Hector and others along with the Outlet to Court? It leaves those who don't know any better to

wonder if the accusations are true. After all they are repeated in almost every issue.

Since this newspaper knows that the two 'little ministers' who made the statement, have no statue nor do their suggestions carry any weight with their Cabinet colleagues then we won't deal with the matter in any detail.

We would just like to remind them that these were the same statements made by Walter, Halstead and Sydney Christian before they introduced the notorious newspaper Act and then were promptly unceremoniously bundled

out of office. While we have mentioned that the views of these fellows do not carry any weight in the Cabinet nevertheless they are ministers of Government and so the P.M. should see to it that whatever they say at political public meetings should not be used as news items on our radio and T.V.

This Newspaper would never again, after struggling so hard against the P.L.M. regime to remain free, countenance any amendments to our present press laws which would in any way restrict the freedom of expression.

CSO: 3298/516

'CAPTAIN ASTIZ COMMAND' THREATENS JOURNALISTS

PY072012 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0056 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Viedma, Rio Negro, 6 Apr (NA)--The Press Workers Union charged here today that three Viedma journalists have recently received telephone threats from a self-styled "Captain Astiz Command."

The journalists in question are Hector Colas, from the "Propuesta" radio program, and Carlos Espinoza and Nelson Livigni, coworkers for the local newspaper LA CALLE and for the Sala De Redaccion television program.

Through telephone calls, the Astiz Command warned these journalists to stop discussing on their programs issues related to the activities of the former squadron leader who surrendered to the British on the South Georgias.

Moreover, they warned that if they do not comply with the order, they will be subjected to physical reprisals.

What is more, the three journalists in question extensively covered the departure from the country of Jorge Fontevicchia, the director of Ferfil Publishing Company, and the charges raised against Astiz that are included in the latest issue of LA SEMANA, which was recently confiscated.

In a communique issued this afternoon, the 15 June Press Union repudiates the incident and demands authorities to take "the proper measures to avoid other similar incidents."

Moreover, it demands that authorities assure that "professionals of the press are able to carry out their activities in complete freedom and to protect the personal integrity of all citizens."

The group also believes that the threats are part of an outbreak of a "psychological terrorism that brings insecurity to the Argentine people and threatens the national institutionalization process."

CSO: 3348/321

ECONOMY MINISTER SCORES PRESS, TALKS ON ECONOMY

PY092320 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2014 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (DYN)--Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe today labeled as "unacceptable" the existence of free interest rates. He also said he believes that due to the 50 percent increase in agricultural production, the payment of the foreign debt would be "very easy."

Wehbe delivered a long speech today reiterating his policies. He had harsh words for the press pointing out "the confusion that is created by the communications media" through "malicious and deadly criticism, which undoubtedly helps to sell newspapers."

In this regard he said that he believes that there are "two Argentinas: one which works silently and another printed in the newspapers which creates sadness and skepticism."

The economy minister delivered the speech during a luncheon organized by an association of managers of sales and marketing in a hotel in this capital. Expanding on his thoughts about the criticism of his administration, Wehbe said that there are "errors of assessment caused by political passion and emotional reactions."

The minister said that in reality "the Argentine situation is not as bad as it is believed to be" because "problems have been resolved" since last September due "to the understanding and help of the international financial community."

The only new idea in his speech was that he totally opposes the existence of free interest rates "because it is an unacceptable situation which should be eliminated."

He added: "We do not like to intervene in the market but it is justified if it is for a common cause and for general well-being. Interest rates of 20 or 25 percent a month is a real tragedy and we are now studying it."

After pointing out that current inflation is tremendous" and that this is due to "irrational factors," the minister said that "political uncertainty plays an important role creating situations over which the government is not

"responsible." He said, however, that "this goes on all over the world as part of democracy."

In this regard, he gave as an example what happened last week when U.S. Treasury Under Secretary Timothy McNamara [as received] visited. There were all kinds of speculations about the purpose of his visit when in reality "it was a simple, cordial visit" to "chat and nothing else."

CSO: 3348/321

INTERIOR MINISTER ON ELECTORAL LAW, TERRORISM

PY062118 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Gen Llamil Reston has announced that an electoral law is being drafted.

Speaking to newsmen at the end of today's cabinet meeting, Reston also said that the preparation of the voters' list is at an advanced stage.

Reston also answered questions about two more issues: the attack that took place today in the greater Buenos Aires area and the possibility of lifting the state of siege.

Reston said that if the reported attack were true it would be unfortunate. He ruled out, however, the possibility of an upsurge of subversion, which does not mean that there cannot be isolated cases.

Reston said: We have to remember that Argentines are well aware of this scourge and I believe there will not be an upsurge of subversion.

As for the state of siege, Reston expressed his hope that it will be possible to lift it before the 30 October general election.

Reston also expressed his satisfaction about the way in which the pre-electoral campaign is being conducted. Except for some internal problems which stem from the organizational system of each political party, Reston said everything was going normally.

Reston added: I do not believe we will encounter problems in the institutionalization process.

CSO: 3348/321

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING ERROR ADMITTED--Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (DYN)--The Economy Ministry admitted tonight that Minister Jorge Wehbe made a great mistake yesterday when he reported on the evolution of prices in March by saying that the cost of living increased 10.5 percent when in reality the final figure showed an increase of 11.3 percent. This error was justified by the ministry explaining that the minister used as a basis provisional estimates prior to the final computations. The final computations were made today and this is why the figures were different. This did not happen in the case of the wholesale prices which in March did increase 10.7 percent. [Text] [PY092312 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2137 GMT 8 Apr 83]

SOVIET UNION PURCHASES MORE GRAIN--In the past few days the Soviet Union has bought more grain, according to information provided by LA NACION by a qualified spokesman for the export sector. Reportedly Soviet purchases of Argentine corn amounts to between 600,000 and 1 million tons, while those of sorgham amounts to between 2 and 2.5 million tons. The spokesman also said that wheat sales stand at about 3.5 million tons, but that part of the not-yet-shipped tonnage is being replaced by summer grains because of quality problems with wheat, which is a winter crop. As for the above, another source in the grain trade sector expressed some doubt, saying that the Soviets had already bought 4 million tons of wheat, of which approximately 3.9 million tons had already been shipped by the end of March. [Text] [PY090256 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 8 Apr 83 p 8]

CSO: 3348/321

PARTIES ROW OVER PROBE INTO VIOLENCE IN ELECTIONS

Demand for Open Hearings

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 26 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] A former Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly has offered to give evidence before the recently-appointed election violence committee, but he wants his evidence taken in public so that everyone will know what he has to say.

Mr Henry Bowen, former PLP MP for West End and Bimini until his party dropped him after he criticised members of government for demonstrating against two Freeport companies, wrote to Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, who is chairman of the House committee on March 23. Said Mr Bowen in his letter:

"I have first-hand information which could be useful to the committee and I am prepared to assist the committee in its work.

"I am aware that it is usual for select committees to sit in camera. However, bearing in mind the nature of the committee's terms of reference I volunteer to testify in public."

In a statement today Mr Bowen said the "House is the people's forum. And by extension, a House committee is there to do the work of the people. Consequently the people have a right to see, and hear what the committee is doing to them...when the committee is doing it."

The committee was appointed to investigate violence and its relationship (if any) to politics during 1970-1972 and particularly the events of Lewis Yard; the 1970 no confidence vote in the House of Assembly against Prime Minister Sir Synden Pindling and the Perpall Tract murder of Barry Major.

During this period Mr Bowen was a member of Mr Pindling's government and should be privy to many behind-the-scenes decisions.

"Experience has taught me," said Mr Bowen, "that 90 percent of government business is done in darkest secrecy. In fact our government is conducted largely by a series of secret conferences; and what reaches the floor of the House is only icing on the cake."

"If the Bahamian public know," he said, "of some of the things which go on behind the tightly-shut doors of government...come election time, voters would be better able to analyse the issues and consequently exercise the ballot with a lot more care and effectiveness."

He acknowledged that as "preservation is the first law of nature" many people vote the way they do to preserve themselves and protect their own interests.

"Furthermore," said Mr Bowen, "a lot of people are still not convinced that the ballot is secret. This perhaps is a matter for parliamentarians to consider in any amendments to the Representation of the People Act."

There was no reason, he argued, for a committee of the House to meet behind closed doors.

"If the nation was at war--and there was fear of military secrets being compromised--I can understand secret meetings. However, our country is not at war. As far as I am aware, we have no military secrets. Our democracy will only be threatened if its citizens let seemingly inconsequential incursions on the Constitution--to use the Bahamian vernacular--'slide.'"

"Matters of major public concern discussed and entertained by a committee may never reach the floor of the House," said Mr Bowen. "And if they do reach the floor, the Speaker may prohibit publication, thereby effectively depriving the public of information to which it is justly entitled."

"I can appreciate the fact that secrecy has to be enforced with respect to certain Cabinet matters. But extending this rule to a committee of the people's House of Assembly seems a bit excessive."

The former deputy speaker noted that the rules of the House do not specifically prohibit select committees from sitting in public.

"Strangers who misbehave at a meeting of the House can be forcibly escorted from the chamber. And under certain circumstances, the Speaker may order the ejection of a member of parliament. But despite the observance of House rules, and adherence to those rules by MPs and the public alike, it would be unthinkable to hold meetings of Parliament in private. Committee meetings are merely an extension of the work of the House. Why then are they held in private?"

He noted that nowadays the rules of the House are often ignored by MPs.

"For instance," he said, "the rules pertaining to dress is flagrantly violated by most members. And one does not have to be overly observant in order to determine who the offenders are."

"The rules also prohibit the reading of speeches. But during the Budget debate especially some members would 'act it out' on the radio and pretend to be speaking extemporaneously. The fact is they are not speaking off-the-cuff at all, but rather they are reading from a prepared text."

"These rules," said Mr Bowen, "are either ignored, or routinely waived, by 'leave of the House.'

"Yet if it serves the peculiar interest of certain members, they would unabashedly hold committee meetings in private and then hide behind 'the rules.'

"What rules?" asked Mr Bowen.

"The rules have already been prostituted to serve partisan interests, therefore, the House should either resolve to observe its own rules..or scrap them.

"If by chance, convention has been established to the effect committee meetings should be held in camera, then that particular convention should be relaxed in the same manner that the rule governing dress is relaxed."

And, concluded Mr Bowen, "what is good for the goose, is good for the gander."

Charges Against FNM

Nassau THE HERALD in English 7 Apr 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

WE WERE AMUSED by comments made this week by George Wilson, Vice-Chairman of the FNM, that PLP had raised the issue of the violence of the 1972 general election only as a diversion.

WE were amused because we believe Mr. Wilson and other members of the FNM are aware that it was their "leader" Wallace-Whitfield who moved for and got a committee to investigate political violence in The Bahamas.

MR. WHITFIELD made an impassioned plea for the committee to be appointed to investigate the events that occurred in Lewis Yard, Grand Bahama when he said a plot had been made to kill him.

MR. WILSON should know, as everyone else

already does, that events that occurred on that one night in Lewis Yard, Grand Bahama pale in insignificance when compared to the violence of the 1972 General Election, when thugs who worked for the FNM burnt buildings, vandalized cars and even murdered another Bahamian. That is the point and the Bahamian people can never forget it.

FOR the past three weeks The Herald has published testimonies and a confession from those persons who were in the leadership of the so-called "Security Force" of the FNM. Three of those persons have been hanged — two for the murder of one of their criminal colleagues in 1972.

SINCE we began publishing the statements, various members of the FNM have accused The Herald and the PLP of trying to make mischief. Some have even said that the men who made the statements were promised something in return.

THE POINT is that all four statements given correspond substantially on a number of issues, paramount among which is that Barry Major was murdered because he had threatened to tell the police what he knew of the criminal acts of those involved with the FNM, if he were not paid.

NO amount of fancy foot work by Mr. Wilson or anyone else in the FNM will change that.

REPORT ON RESULTS OF PINDLING'S TOUR OF FAR EAST

Nassau THE HERALD in English 7 Apr 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITIES in Hong Kong and Japan are now totally aware of the attractiveness of The Bahamas as a tourist destination banking and ship registration centre and possible site for the establishment of free trade zones.

THE AWARENESS was struck by the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Sir Lynden Pindling himself and a high-level delegation which includes the Ministers of Transport and Economic Affairs, that began a blitz of Hong Kong and Japan last week.

IT is obvious now that as a result of this visit, The Bahamas can expect to become the beneficiaries of investments from businessmen in these two countries.

SIR LYNDEN is putting into action suggestions made at the last PLP convention and if his trip produces a fraction of what we expect, The Bahamas employment rate will be raised substantially.

IN Hong Kong, where investors have begun searching for a suitable country to house their investments because the lease on the island by the British government expires in several years, Sir Lynden told the Rotary Club that research has shown that a free trade zone in The Bahamas would be financially beneficial to both this country and the foreign investor for ten reasons, among which are the facts that goods from The Bahamas could be imported duty free into the United States and countries of the European Economic Community under the Lome Convention and General System of Preferences and this country's favourable geographical and strategic location with respect to the major shipping lanes and markets.

SIR LYNDEN and his delegation also actively courted ship owners to register their vessels under The Bahamian flag.

THE REGISTRATION of foreign-owned ships in The Bahamas has increased almost 12-fold from some 60,000 gross tons in 1977 to some 700,000 today. This includes ships owned by Getty, Exxon and Cunard.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT the beneficial ownership of some one fourth of the world's ship tonnage is controlled or owned by Japan and Hong Kong.

AN INCREASE in the registration of ships would mean for The Bahamas government an increase in revenue and this is perhaps the first time that foreign ship owners have been counted on such a large scale.

SIR LYNDEN or the Minister of Transport will have another opportunity to address ship owners again next Thursday when the 2nd Annual Shipping conference is held at the Ambassador Beach Hotel.

COMMENTATOR ASSESSES BLACK-WHITE POLITICAL SPLIT IN BERMUDA

Nassau THE HERALD in English 7 Apr 83 p 3

[Article by Fred Mitchell]

[Text] **BUCKINGHAM, ENGLAND, March 30th —** There are at least five Bermudians here studying law. On February 3rd, the people of Bermuda elected a government. It is the same government that they had before the election. The United Bermuda Party (UBP) defeated the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) for the umpteenth time. They defeated them by a landslide.

WE in The Bahamas feel close to the people of Bermuda. The ties were close when we were both colonies. White settlers from Bermuda came to The Bahamas. Politically, we have grown along similar lines, in the sense that race is a major political cleavage in both societies. Bermuda, of course, has a much larger and therefore more powerful white population. Evidence of this closeness can be found in the fact that the white man's party in Bermuda is the UBP and the Black man's party is the PLP.

BUT apart from these general, though significant similarities, there are major differences between Bermuda and The Bahamas. Having been to Bermuda, one would guess that the major difference between The Bahamas and Bermuda is that the Black population is apparently content with their lot in life. Thus every time election comes the white party wins.

ONE of the Bermudians here puts it this way. He explains

that even the poorest Black Bermudian has got a video set and colour TV. He is able to take frequent trips to the United States, mainly New York. Money is readily accessible to him from the tourist economy. The argument, therefore, is that the Black Bermudian has nothing to gain from voting the UBP out and putting the PLP in.

WHAT this man is really saying is that the political consciousness of the Bermudians places the highest priority on material well being. Material well being is equated with mental well being. According to this line of reasoning, the problems of the colour line and being forever doomed to second class status are esoteric or far fetched considerations to the average Bermudian once the dollars keep rolling in.

HAVING not examined the society first hand it is difficult to say what the truth is. Obviously something is wrong, at least to the thinking of Bahamians. Our Prime Minister is personally close to the leader of the opposition in Bermuda,

Mrs. Lois Brown Evans. PLPs from Bermuda come to PLP conventions in The Bahamas. There is a constant exchange of views, but there is no progress on the political front.

AT ONE TIME, we in The Bahamas were hopeful that change at last was to come. In December 1977, the UPB government hanged two young men, Tacklyn and Burrows for the murder of the Governor. This resulted in riots in Bermuda. Our friend here in Buckingham suggests these riots were PLP-inspired.

WHOEVER inspired them, a royal Commission of Inquiry was appointed with Lord Pitt, a Black member of the House of Lords, at its head. The Pitt Commission recommended several political reforms like single member constituencies eliminating certain expatriate voters from the rolls. It also spoke about the necessity to move toward independence.

YOU can understand why Bahamians thought that the stage was set for political

change. In the election that followed, the PLP came the closest it ever came, but it did not win. On February 3rd, the PLP said it was ready but they lost worst than ever to the UBP now headed by a brown-skinned man the colour of Kendal Isaacs. The loss represents a reversal.

WHAT we Bahamians heard on this campus was joy for the most part. Only one Bermudian here was sorrowful, and her father was a PLP candidate who won his seat in the previous election by seven votes and lost his seat this time by more than one hundred.

THE others seemed content with the victory. The status quo remains. They are comfortable with the choice of the majority, and there is the suggestion that the PLP doesn't have the money or political skill. One infers from this that perhaps the PLP in Bermuda ought to begin looking toward new leadership. Something is drastically wrong.

UNION LEADERS ASSAILED FOR UNDERMINING PUBLIC NEEDS

Nassau THE HERALD in English 7 Apr 83 p 8

[Article by Senator Norris Carroll]

[Excerpts]

IT is probably quite true that The Bahamas total land mass is only about Four Thousand Four Hundred square miles; but it is totally wrong to regard The Bahamas as a small country. Jamaica, which has about the same land mass is a small country; but we are not.

THE explanation of this anomaly lies in the fact that we are an archipelago scattered over a hundred thousand square miles. That is the relevant figure for us Bahamians to get firmly stuck into our consciousness: that we are at the very least one hundred thousand square miles. One hundred thousand square miles is one hell of a country! It makes no difference that it is comprised mostly of water: indeed if we had been one land mass of one hundred thousand square miles it would have been cheaper to run than it is now.

The Bahamas is a much more expensive country to maintain and administer than a country of a solid land mass of four thousand four hundred square miles. Jamaica, for example, is a much cheaper country to administer.

WE, the people, pay for the maintenance of the country; and we pay for its administration. We pay for the schools; the airports; the docks; the harbours; the clinics; the nurses, teachers, commission-

ers, policemen. And we pay an increased bill because of our geographical composition. We pay that bill through taxes on food, cars, televisions, building material, dog licences, car licences, Real Property Taxes. If we don't pay these taxes then there will be no money to do these things; and it would only be a matter of time before there wouldn't even be the "series of connecting pot holes" as a chap described our roads the other day. It was Leonard Archer, actually, who gave this description. This was done in a speech to himself and a few of his mischievous colleagues at an unsuccessful "mass-rally" at Windsor Park on the 17th March. This came after the Trade Union Congress had published a few full page advertisements demanding that the Government "roll back" certain of the taxes by which it collects funds to administer the country. It was the most incredibly stupid action one could imagine coming from this organization — even though one has over the years learned not to expect much

logic from this particular quarter.

ON the one hand they demanded the roads to be fixed; their salaries to be increased; more teachers to staff the schools; the police to be more adequately paid; the water system to be improved; the airline service to be improved. On the other hand they want taxes to be reduced or removed altogether. And they complain about the Government's borrowing money as well. So where the hell is the Government supposed to get this money to run the damn country?

THESE chaps are playing a dumb game — so dumb, it's an obscenity! Who do they believe they are trying to fool? Not the Bahamian people! No wonder they can't get a decent audience. But now that they have set the foolish precedent I am going to give their membership the same advice: do not pay your dues — the people you have leading the outfit feel that they could run a whole country without collecting taxes (dues); so what are they asking you to pay dues (taxes) for? Indeed — and this is not meant to be cynical — I suggest that the membership of certain Trade Unions pay very serious attention to the Unions' accounts and to the accounts of certain Credit Unions: I am personally very suspicious as to what the auditors will find!

OPPOSITION LEADER ADDRESSES STUDENT POLITICAL GROUP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

OPPOSITION leader Kendal Isaacs warned last night that unemployment will become even more acute when thousands of young people leave high school this June.

Mr Isaacs was addressing the Student National Action Party (SNAP) on the second night of its convention at the House of Labour, Wulff Road. SNAP, which was formed in February, organized the massive five-day demonstration by C. C. Sweeting High students for better school conditions.

"You know full well that unemployment is one of the serious problems we face, and I must speak truthfully and tell you that while it appears that there will be some new jobs in the market-place, it seems to me that the problem of unemployment will be even more acute after thousands more young people leave school this year," Mr Isaacs said.

He told students the main reason for this was that over the past 12 years or so the economy has failed to expand sufficiently to absorb the new people entering the job market every year.

Another reason, he said, was that the education system has failed to equip young Bahamians to make a living and as a result there are many expatriates doing the kind of work that Bahamians by now should be able to perform.

Mr Isaacs said it was the view of his party that there

should be a revamping of the entire education system so that it would be able to produce young Bahamians properly trained to take advantage of job opportunities.

"Along with this there should be vigorous effort to expand the Bahamian economy so there will be more development - and, therefore, more jobs. We believe that this can be done by encouraging more capital investment by Bahamian and foreign investors This country has barely scratched the surface of its development potential," he said.

"What we need now is an imaginable, credible, fullscale development programme to create opportunities for all the people."

Mr Isaacs told students that some of the tools they need for a successful life are good character, education (particularly in the area of modern technology), commitment, perseverance and discipline.

He urged young people to exercise their rights without fear. He said that by forming SNAP, students were exercising one of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution and in democratic traditions "and that is the right to freedom of association."

"There will always be people who will seek to diminish this right by intimidation and there are those who will act as though you have the right to

associate with them only," Mr Isaacs said.

And, he warned: "When citizens surrender this right because of pressure and coercion, they surrender one of the foundation stones of democracy."

He also told the students that there were responsibilities that went along with rights. In the case of freedom of association, their responsibility would be not to infringe on another person's freedom, but to operate within the limits of the Constitution and the laws.

"Our nation needs the contribution of interested and caring young people like yourselves. We need you to remind the older generation of some of the ideals they held as young people, ideals which may have become frayed and tattered in the storms of life," Mr Isaacs said.

Lisa Thurston, first vice-chairman of SNAP, told students she blamed the unemployment problem on Government.

"In my opinion, I think there's no-one else to be

blamed, but the Government," she said. "If the Government was interested in the young people (although they are not interested in the young or the old) and the country, there would not be so much crime going on. I think that because it is not happening to them they don't care."

"In fact, I think our Government goes with too many kisses and favours and they only think of themselves, which I find to be disgraceful," Miss Thurston said.

She said that regardless of a person's political affiliation, they should not be discriminated against or victimized. Miss Thurston said that society is in need of responsible young people and she urged them to "let nothing destroy you for there is a perfect life."

Speakers invited to address the convention tonight include Minister of Education Darrell Rolle, Dr John McCartney, leader of the Vanguard Party, George Wilson of the FNM and Philip Bethel, a teacher. The convention starts at 7:30 pm.

LABOR PROBLEMS CONTINUE DESPITE RETURN TO WORK OF NURSES

Spread of Industrial Action

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

Stepped up industrial action is expected today as the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) continues to express its dissatisfaction with Government's new duty roster for nurses.

Today more nurses from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and other employees from that department are expected to lend support to the union's cause on behalf of nurses at the Geriatric, Psychiatric and District Hospitals.

In addition employees at the Meteorological Office, and the Air Traffic Controllers will intensify their go-slow.

The action followed yesterday's meeting between the disputing parties, which failed to reach a settlement in the issue.

The union said last night that Government's proposals at the talks yesterday were not new, and further did not address themselves to the issue which is the proposed increase in the number of

nights of duty from four to five at the hospitals.

These proposals according to the NUPW were the shortening of the night shift and the consequential employment of a number of nurses on a seasonal basis; the filling of all vacant nursing posts on a permanent basis; and the improvement of rest room facilities.

According to the NUPW: "It was prepared to instruct the workers to return to work immediately provided that:

(a) Government gives an undertaking that all nurses be allowed to work their old hours of duty pending further discussions with Government concerning the reduction from five to four nights for nurses at the QEH and in connection with the proposals submitted by Government.

(b) An agreement be reached on these matters within four weeks; and

(c) The period within which the expected agreement must be implemented subject to negotiations.

The NUPW said that Government's reaction was that arrangements proposed by it in respect of the hours of work and the number of nights of duty must prevail.

"Government is further insisting that even if discussions were to continue on the proposals the nurses would be expected to resume duty on the new shift hours as proposed by Government," the union said.

The NUPW said it was of the view that the Government had no intention whatsoever of reaching a settlement in the issue, had continued to disregard and treat with contempt the health of the nation, and by its action is demonstrating its contempt and disregard for the rights and aspirations of the Barbadian workers.

It added that there will be "an intensification of industrial action in as many areas of the Public Service as is practicable."

Opposition Comment

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

The Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) wants a speedy end to the current dispute between the Government and the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) over the rostering of increased night duty for nurses at some health institutions.

At a Press conference yesterday, Opposition Leader Mr. Errol Barrow, said that his party "calls upon the Government to take immediate steps to return to the bargaining table."

Mr. Barrow said that the DLP was "deeply concerned" over the effect on the country's health services likely to result from the current impasse between the Government and the NUPW.

He was referring to the industrial action being taken by the NUPW after Government has decided to roster nurses at the Psychiatric, Geriatric and District Hospitals to work five nights a week, instead of four nights as was the practice previously.

Mr. Barrow said that the nurses have always responded to the demands of their profession, frequently working overtime without additional payment, and in recent years, actually using their limited resources to purchase essential materials for patient care when basic items were not available in the public institutions.

He added that nurses when on night duty, have even greater responsibilities since they did not have readily available to them, the support services which were in place during the day.

Mr. Barrow said that a system of organisation of night duties evolved from the consideration of a multiplicity of factors which included transport problems, personal safety on the roads and family considerations.

"When all these factors are considered" said Mr. Barrow, "an institution should come up with a programme which is conducive to the best possible patient care and which is in conformity with negotiated conditions acceptable to both employer and employee," he added.

According to Mr. Barrow, the general public may not be aware that the nurses, like others in Government service, have been victims of layoffs, reduced real incomes, and deterioration in their conditions of employment. "We are not therefore surprised that they have taken a firm stand on proposals which must inevitably militate against effective patient care as a direct result of the additional hardships placed on them," he added.

The Opposition Leader said that no professional nurse should be asked to participate in experiments which they know from experience would be harmful to those to whom they owe a duty of care.

"The Government needs to recognise that health care delivery is essentially about people providing services for people, with less emphasis on bricks and mortar" said Mr. Barrow.

He added, "Once this is accepted, money should be available to provide work for the many trained nurses who are unemployed and whose services are desperately needed by the community."

Mr. Barrow said that the nurses should be allowed to continue to provide the excellent service which they have rendered over the years with a level of dedication unsurpassed in any other health system.

"The general public has an opportunity to show their appreciation of the nursing profession by giving their moral support. In the final analysis, the nurses are far more knowledgeable about their profession and the needs of the patient than the politicians who assume instant expertise on appointment to office," Mr. Barrow concluded.

Settlement With Nurses

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] Nurses in Barbados are expected to be back on the job from today following a settlement in their 16-day industrial dispute with Government over new working hours.

A decision was taken yesterday that the nurses return to work immediately following a meeting between their representatives, the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), and the Establishments Division of the Prime Minister's Office.

The nurses at the Psychiatric, Geriatric and District hospitals came out on strike mid-March to protest a Government decision to make them work five nights weekly as opposed to the four-night week they now undertake. They argued that this would have meant them working as much as 52 hours a week and would have provided various types of problems. Government on the other hand said that the new system was aimed at improving patient care and standardising the system. Nurses at the island's largest hospital, the QEH, now work five nights a week.

The Barbados Registered Nurses Association and the NUPW have both said that the nurses at the QEH want to work the same shift system as their colleagues at the other hospitals.

To press their case, the nurses held a number of demonstrations and picketed their workplaces and Government headquarters on at least two occasions. Yesterday they held another march and picketed Parliament buildings. NUPW General Secretary Joe Goddard had warned yesterday that the nurses had exhausted the purpose of marching adding that the public workers were backing the nurses.

It was expected that a national two-day strike of all public officers would have been called for tomorrow and Friday.

The joint communique issued after yesterday's talks between the two sides said that in the interest of patient care and nurses' welfare all nurses should return to work

on the existing arrangements while an entirely new shift and rostering system is worked out between the Government and the Union within the context of Government's commitment to a 40-hour week worked out in conformity with general practices applicable in other sections of the Public Service."

It is expected that work on a new system for all nurses at the Psychiatric, Geriatric and District Hospitals will be completed in four weeks.

Government has also agreed to examine the hours of duty of the nurses at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital within the same time span, but informed Government sources said that nurses at the QEH who now work only 38½ hours weekly will have to go to 40 hours weekly. The source also said that nurses at the QEH only work one week night duty in every month.

The sources also said that nurses would not be paid for the period which they were on strike.

The joint communique said, however, that Government will no longer pursue the reduction of the leave eligibility of those nurses who did not work in accordance with the duty rosters which were proposed by Government, and that there would be no victimisation of workers who were involved in the industrial dispute. It was also agreed that steps would be taken to improve the rest room facilities at the hospitals.

Teachers Union Call

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Union of Teachers has called on the Government to declare its position on the matter of an additional payment to

teachers and public workers for the year 1983-84.

Victor Hutchinson, president of the BUT, made the disclosure in a Press statement which pointed out that the union had despatched a letter to the Chief Establishment's Officer calling on the government to make its position clear.

Hutchinson said that the union's stand on the matter was known since last year, and added that the union's leadership would shortly be advising its members on the situation. He stated that the Government's response to the union's request would have an important bearing on that advice.

Continued Dissatisfaction of Nurses

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

State-paid nurses returned to work yesterday after a two week-strike, but trade unionists said the dispute which triggered the work stoppage at seven hospitals is still to be settled.

"We have reached agreement with the Government on the conditions for a return to work," said Joseph Goddard, general secretary of the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), "but the dispute has not been settled."

Nurses at the lone Psychiatric Hospital, and small geriatric institutions went on strike after the Government ordered them to work five rather than the usual four nights weekly.

They were joined by nurses at the 600-bed Queen Elizabeth Hospital — Barbados' biggest — who work five five days weekly, and by Sanitation Service Authority employees, including refuse collectors.

The NUPW, which said it represents more than 800 nurses and is Barbados' biggest public sector union, told the Government its new duty roster would cause higher spending on transportation and disrupt some household schedules.

The Government countered, saying the roster that could standardise the work shifts in the health institutions would lead to better patient care.

"Let's face it," Goddard said, "the civil service has the worst shift systems in Barbados. We are going to have a

look at some of the systems in the private sector before we have further talks with the Government. They are also doing research."

The unionists and government representatives last night agreed to try for a resolution of the problems within four weeks.

Goddard said the conditions for the work resumption included "no victimisation of workers who were on strike, no reduction in their vacation eligibility, and continuation of the old duty roster."

The union had been insisting on the nurses being paid for the time they were off the job, but the Government side rejected the demand.

CSO: 3298/524

TOURISM BODY CENTER OF ATTENTION AFTER ATTACK BY ADAMS

Prime Minister's Letter

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 29 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

PRIME Minister Tom Adams has criticised the running of the Barbados Board of Tourism and has charged that its head has done "more economic damage ... than a serious hurricane."

His comments were contained in a letter dated February 11, 1983, sent to the board's director Patrick Hinds.

A copy of the letter was made a document of the Barbados Senate yesterday during debate on the 1983 Appropriation Bill by opposition Senator, Evelyn Greaves, who quoted extensively from the document to support what he said were the same type of criticisms. The opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) had been making over the years.

Prime Minister Adams' letter was an apparent response to an explanation by the Director of Tourism of the industry's performance over the past three years, which the Prime Minister described as "exceptionally poor."

"Barbados' failure has been catastrophic and in a less well structured society would have been destructive of the very cement that holds the society together," Adams said in his letter, extracts of which were used by Greaves yesterday.

Adams criticised Hinds' work programme, saying the director had "inflicted a great deal more economic damage on Barbados than a serious hurricane would have done."

Greaves told the Senate that if members of the board, its director or the Minister of Tourism had any guts, they would resign.

Senator Greaves, chief Opposition spokesman on debate of

the 1983-84 Estimates read extracts from the letter, in which it was stated that Barbados' performance was "exceptionally poor" in the last three years and that this country's failure in the tourism industry had been "catastrophic" and that the board was "floundering".

The letter was also critical of the board for its insistence on having more money for overseas advertising, rather than pursuing other measures.

The Barbadian public, said Senator Greaves, were misled into believing that tourism was doing well. There was no sense of direction at the Board of Tourism, he stated.

The letter from the Prime Minister, in his view, was a direct attack not only on the board and the director, but also on the Minister of Tourism and if any of them had any guts they would resign.

He did not understand how people in charge of the affairs of any ministry or agency could be subjected to that kind of attack and criticism and still feel that they could decently carry on in that particular ministry or agency.

The Prime Minister's letter to the board, he said, showed that he had no confidence in the Board, the director or the Minister of Tourism. It was clear, said Senator Greaves, that the charges of mismanagement by the board, which had been levelled at it by the Democratic Labour Party, had very good foundation.

Senator's Criticism

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 30 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

GOVERNMENT Senator Mr. Hutson Linton, said in the Senate yesterday that Director of Tourism, Mr. Patrick Hinds, should have resigned from the time he received a recent critical letter from Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Linton said that he was hearing that the letter, which was made a document of the House on Monday by Senator Evelyn Greaves, had been an indictment of Minister of Tourism, Bernard St. John, and the Government itself.

The senator said that this would centre on the ministerial system of Government and the collective responsibility of the Cabinet.

However, he said he did not hold the view that it was an indictment against the Minister of Tourism or the Government at all.

At this stage there was an aside from Leader of Government Business, Senator Nigel Barrow, and Linton, who was speaking on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, said: "I am told there is a reply of that letter which will come at a later date."

However, Linton referred to the letter again while dealing with agriculture. He called for the removal of the representative of the Barbados Workers' Union from the Board of Tourism and suggested that the BWU

representative be replaced by a small farmer.

Linton said that the small farmer could, perhaps, persuade hoteliers to localise their menus.

Linton, who had studied law in London and worked at the Barbados High Commission in London, said that he was not surprised about the Prime Minister's reference in his letter to the Director of Tourism about the office there.

Linton commented that the office had lost direction.

He accused the Board of Tourism's offices of showing a decided lack of initiative in promoting this country.

Opposition Call for Change

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 30 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Tom Adams owes it to this country to either withdraw a letter he sent to the Director of Tourism, or take the necessary steps to have the director and board members dismissed.

According to Opposi-

tion Leader Errol Barrow, the move by the Prime Minister is "highly questionable and unconstitutional".

Barrow said: "It places the minister in an embarrassing position, it places the board in an embar-

rassing position as the employee is asked to bring these matters to the attention of the board.

Said he: "You cannot lambast your Director of Tourism, including the board with which he works, and accuse him of incompetence, bringing economic disasters unto the unhappy people of Barbados ... and allow those people to still continue to draw money from the public purse."

He said it is unfair to the taxpayers to continue to support people in office whom the Prime Minister himself "finds unacceptable".

Debate in Senate

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

The Barbados Board of Tourism has not done enough to promote Harrison's Cave overseas....the Board should have no more than five or six members and the level of rates charged by hotels in Barbados are too high.

These were some of the observations made in Barbados Upper Chamber last Monday as Senators opened debate on Government's estimates of expenditure and income for the year 1983-1984.

Tourism was also touched on by Senator David Seale who

contended that under the estimates more money should be allocated to the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

As far as the Barbados Board of Tourism was concerned Senator Seale said: "in my opinion it has too many members. The Tourist Board

should have five or six members. That is our problem."

The Senator also referred to the Grantley Adams International Airport, which he said was the smartest in the Caribbean but he noted that in the departure lounge the emphasis seemed to be on seats and not on shops.

Senator David Simmons, in his contribution to the tourism debate, said that while he was not the defender of Tourism, Director Patrick Hinds, he

believed that one of the contributing factors in the decline of tourism was the increase in violent crimes in Barbados.

Senator Simmons made it clear that the whole attitude of Barbadians towards the tourist must change and referred to a recent incident in St. Lucia where he said he was made to feel welcome, while he had observed an indifferent approach by tourism workers in Barbados.

The third problem relating to tourism decline which Senator Simmons identified was to do with hotel rates.

The Senator said that far too many hotels charged exorbitant rates and singled out one south coast hotel which he said offered very reasonable rates and was fully booked throughout the year.

The Senator also took into consideration the wages and previous oil increases which he admitted sent up hotel rates but his main contention was that the cost of hotel accommodation had definitely gone to too high a level.

Tourism Board's Response

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Mar 83 p 1

[Excerpts]

Tourism is too important to Barbados to be made into a political football.

... was the comment yesterday from Mr. Jack Dear QC, chairman of the Barbados Board of Tourism.

He held a Press conference to "tell the whole story" surrounding a letter sent to the Board by Prime Minister Tom Adams last February 11.

Mr. Dear released the rest of the story yesterday and this comprised the reply sent to the Prime Minister by the Board and the Prime Minister's final reply.

The Board's reply consisted of a letter summarising the work which the Director and technical staff did in the last three years, and the direction it proposed for the future. It was accompanied by supporting documents.

The Prime Minister's response accepted the necessity of some of the steps taken by the Board and made suggestions on how certain problems could be solved.

Mr. Dear said yesterday that in the interest of its members, the Barbados Workers' Union should seek to promote tourism, rather than seek scapegoats for reduced performances in recent years. Senator Greaves is assistant general secretary of the BWU.

The Board made a similar point in its reply to the Prime Minister when it admitted that the tourism industry had received hard knocks in the last two years with serious consequences to the island's economy.

The Board also rejected the accusation that it had been floundering over the past three years, noting that a systematic effort was being made to meet the challenges which have arisen in that time.

Editorial Criticism of Adams

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 31 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

"INSTEAD of resisting my suggestion three years ago that the advertising and public relations agents in North America should have been changed and the staff of the offices abroad shuffled around in a search for new ideas, you allowed the 'old boy network' to remain, and in the process, inflicted a great deal more economic damage on Barbados than a serious hurricane could have done."

These are the written words of the Prime Minister of Barbados to the chief servant of the Board of Tourism whose immediate superiors are his board chairman and his minister.

Mr. Tom Adams, in his letter to the Director of Tourism on February 11, not only set a bad prece-

dent in writing a senior servant of government directly on a matter which should have been directed to the minister or, in special circumstances, to the chairman, but his choice of language is somewhat exaggerated.

The letter constituted a strong attack on an individual who is not directly responsible to the Prime Minister. In this respect we think that Mr. Adams would have been well advised to have dealt with the matter in a different way although we understand that for a short period during this exchange the Prime Minister was responsible for the Tourism Ministry. Indeed, we note that Mr. Errol Barrow, leader of the Opposition, said at a Press conference on Tuesday that it was his practice when anything went wrong in a particular ministry, to call the Minister and ask him to rectify the problem.

We agree that this is the proper procedure, and indeed the only realistic way in which to successfully administer the affairs of a country.

This issue opens up other questions, among them the position of the minister himself, Mr. Bernard St. John, who has an unblemished record of selfless public service. It is going to be interesting to find out where Mr. St. John stands on this matter since the intervention of the Prime Minister is of some embarrassment to his ministry.

The position is not quite the same with the board, since we note in correspondence subsequent to Mr. Adams' original letter that the board welcomed Mr. Adams' intervention.

There has been some discussion about the fact that Senator Evelyn Greaves made the controversial

letter public. In the first place it was clearly intended to be circulated among board members. And in any event, Mr. Greaves is a politician and the publication of the letter can be regarded to be in the best traditions of "open government" which have been dying a slow death in Barbados in recent months.

Mr. Hinds, the Director of Tourism is well qualified. He served in the Barbados Development Bank and the Caribbean Tourism Research Centre before becoming head of the Board of Tourism. Whether or not he has performed well is a matter for his minister and his chairman to decide and to act on. If they came to the same conclusions and failed to act, it is still unfortunate that the Prime Minister chose to write to him at all, far less in the terms of the February 11 letter.

Surely while we agree that much remains to be done with regard to improvement in what is called our tourist product, and while it cannot be denied that the Board of Tourism itself cannot be entirely satisfied with the results of its promotional strategy, it is an amazing conclusion to draw, that any one person either in Government, in the private sector or in the Board of Tourism itself, could have an effect upon the industry as disastrous as a major hurricane.

However much Mr. Adams may feel justified in applying his forceful language to the official Opposition — either in Parliament or on the hustings — he will search in vain for any genuine mass support of his decision to single out the Director of Tourism in the way that he has done.

Rejection of Resignations

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Apr 83 p 8

[Text]

Director of the Barbados Board of Tourism, Mr. Patrick Hinds and Chairman, Mr. Jack Dear had tendered their resignations following criticism of Mr. Hinds' performance by Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams.

This was disclosed by Minister of Tourism, Mr. Bernard St. John.

He told a Press conference that he refused to accept their resignations and told them that the matter would be "thrashed" out and that they misunderstood the context in which Mr. Adams' letter was written.

OPPOSITION DLP CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Charge of Mismanagement

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

An Opposition senator has painted a gloomy picture of life in Barbados, and accused Government of mismanaging the country's affairs, and pursuing anti-worker policies.

Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Senator Evelyn Greaves put his party's case in the Senate which yesterday began debate of the 1983-84 Estimates. The Estimates have already been dealt with in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Greaves told the Senate there was hardship and suffering in Barbados, pointing to the defaulting on payments of mortgages and other debts, rising unemployment, people's inability to buy homes, and the near bankruptcy of small businesses.

Senator Greaves said that the statistics given out on the current state of employment and job creation could not be trusted.

Looking at employment and the creation of jobs Senator Greaves said the official figures presented by Government never gave a true picture of the situation in Barbados.

He said people were working on short time, that is three times a week in both the tourist and manufacturing sectors, the significance of

which would not be reflected in the figures.

He drew reference to the report of a study commissioned by the Industrial Development Corporation on an overall strategy for industrial development in the island.

According to the DLP senator the report had stated that over 5 400 jobs were created between 1978-81 but the net addition to the job market was 340 and that Mr. Greaves said was in spite of the enormous sums spent on the IDC.

Senator Greaves also recalled Government's legislating of salaries for public officers last year.

"They have legislated more salaries than any other Government in the history of the Caribbean," Senator Greaves said.

On top of that Senator Greaves noted, Government had been harrassing small people, notably operators of mobile canteens.

On Government policy, the Opposition spokesman said that Government had gone to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) like "Nicodemus in the night", and no one knew about the deal.

"This present administration has so

mismanaged our economy that they now have us in the present predicament," he said.

He looked at the reasons given by Government for seeking assistance from the Fund, and stated that whatever premise was advanced, the fact of the matter was that the real cause of the crisis was mismanagement.

He summed up the situation as a growing national debt, a badly conceived fiscal policy, regressive taxation programme, a policy of political patronage, and pursuance of an industrial relations policy which has demoralised workers and stultified productivity.

Call for National Bank Disclosures

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

Dr. Richie Haynes, Opposition spokesman on Finance and Planning, has, once again, called on the Prime Minister, Tom Adams, to have the 1981 Audited Statement of Accounts of the Barbados National Bank laid in Parliament in accordance with the spirit of the provisions of the laws of Barbados.

It is simply scandalous, Dr. Haynes said, that a National Financial Institution, whose assets and liabilities are guaranteed by the taxpayers of this country, which accepts deposits from the public every

working day and which handles the accounts of most of the non-financial public sector of this country, should not be in a position to have its accounts presented to Parliament 15 months after the end of a financial year.

The Central Bank of Barbados, said Dr. Haynes, can no longer afford the luxury of dealing with the Barbados National Bank any differently from any other commercial bank. Such leniency may have been justified in the early years of the bank's operation, but the time has come when the Central Bank must exercise its full authority and

bring greater discipline to bear on the procedures in the National Bank.

Dr. Haynes said that he is contemplating other measures to ensure that those accounts are published, since, apart from the taxpayers' guarantee of its normal operations, substantial funds have flowed through that institution as a result of the collapse and disbursement of the Sugar Levy Funds in 1981 and the Price-support Funds for the Sugar Industry which were raised in 1982 and guaranteed by the taxpayers.

CSO: 3298/525

CRITICS SAY NATION'S DEALINGS WITH IMF WERE UNNECESSARY

Haynes Comment

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

SHADOW Minister of Finance, Dr. Richie Haynes, said yesterday that he was always in full agreement that there was no need for Barbados to abandon its sovereignty and place itself in the hands of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He was reacting in a telephone interview with THE NATION, to a statement made in the House of Assembly by Prime Minister Tom

Adams, on Barbados' IMF performance criteria.

Haynes said that the Government had an opportunity once again "to get out of that IMF programme which is clearly destabilising the social and economic structure of this country, and placing the total burden on the adjustment of wage-earners in the community".

He said: "The statement by the Prime Minister simply confirms

my contention that Barbados' external position which led it into the hands of the IMF, was due to gross monetary and fiscal mismanagement.

"It will be noted that the statement does not address itself to economic growth, solution to the serious unemployment problems and the standard of living of Barbadians.

Senator McClean's Views

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

THE information which Prime Minister Tom Adams gave in his statement in the House of Assembly yesterday has confirmed the view that it was not necessary for Barbados to enter a standby arrangement with the IMF for the purpose of balance of payments support, said Senator Wendell McClean last night.

Responding to the statement, McClean, an economist, who was very outspoken about the standby arrangement a few months ago said:

"It should not have been in doubt that Barbados could, and

would have, met those criteria because they were predicated on the assumption that Barbados would have been experiencing a severe balance of payments problem during 1982 which did not materialise."

McClean said that the extent to which Barbados was resuming bilateral payments within the region, should be such as to contribute toward the enhancement of our liquid foreign assets.

Touching on another point, he said:

"If the Government should choose to remain with the IMF, it must make absolutely certain that the new conditionalities

which will be introduced are not more severe than in the past.

"The Government should make sure that in its fiscal management during this financial year, 1983-84, that it does not allow its policies to be diverted by IMF considerations away from what is required for the development and long-term stability of the Barbadian economy.

"In this regard, the Government should not over-restrict its borrowing from the commercial banking system.

"For to do so, could result in an inappropriate allocation of the country's financial resources."

TOURISM EARNINGS DOWN \$78 MILLION, 15-17 PERCENT DROP

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 7 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Angela Carter]

[Text]

BARBADOS' tourist expenditure last year fell below the 1981 figure of \$523.7 million by more than \$78 million.

The exact figure has not yet been released, but it is understood that the tourist receipts were between 15 percent and 17 percent less than the previous year. This would bring the total to between \$434.7 million and \$445.2 million.

This is the first time in the last ten years that the tourist earnings have shown a decrease. The lowest increase to be recorded during that period was in 1976 when \$165.4 million was estimated, 1.4 percent rise over 1975.

In 1981 when tourist arrivals showed a 4.7 percent decrease, the tourist expenditure increased by 10.6 percent.

It was stated then that the increase was due to the rise in cost of ancillary services mainly. However, sources said that this big decrease had been caused mainly by the cut in hotel rates and some ancillary services, in addition to the 13.8 percent drop in tourist arrivals last year.

Last week, the president of the Barbados Hotel Association, Mr. Alfred Taylor, said that he expected the hotel sales tax to be disastrous even though the tourist arrivals were negligible because of the cut rates that the hoteliers were engaged in.

CSO: 3298/525

ULTRAMODERN FISHING FACILITY AT OISTINS SET TO OPEN SOON

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Apr 83 p 8

[Text]

The new ultra-modern fishing facilities at the new Oistins Complex, Christ Church offers up-to-date services for fishermen, vendors and consumers.

No date has been set for the official opening of the facilities which will be operated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The facilities are equipped with ice-making machines as well as storage compartments, to encourage boat owners to use ice when going fishing.

Mr. Neville Brathwaite, supervisor, explained that when a boat-owner goes out for about a week if he has taken about a ton or half of ice, the fish would be fresh when he returns.

He said that there are special "wharf bins" in varying sizes with a capacity to hold up to 1 300 pounds of fresh fish for up to five days.

In the processing area, the fish is put into troughs which are filled with water to clean away the sand.

There are also facilities for boning with specially-made cutting boards.

The processing area is restricted for valid licensed fishsellers who pay a nominal fee of 12 cents to buy their fish.

The No. 2 stall is strictly for boatowners and fishermen who are doing wholesaling and the other stalls are for retailers. These stalls are equipped with overhead pipes to ensure that the fish is clean when being sold.

CSO: 3298/527

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN CANE FIRES--There has been a big increase in cane fires in Barbados over the past five days according to Fire Chief George Gittens. He reported that since the start of this month last Friday, some 200 acres of canes were burnt, primarily in the Christ Church area. That is very close to half the area destroyed by fire for the period January to March this year. The Fire Board is holding a meeting this week at which it is expected that the upsurge of fires will be looked at seriously. The Fire Chief said that many of the fires had resulted from grass and rubbish blazes which got out of control. President of the Barbados Sugar Producers Association said the industry is very concerned about the situation. However, it is pleased with the return of labour to the industry this year adding that the sugar harvest is about 60 per cent completed and it is expected that it will be completed by the end of May. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Apr 83 p 1]

DROP IN PORT TONNAGE--The Bridgetown Port Authority generally makes about \$15 million a year, but figures for last year show a drop of ten percent. This has been disclosed by general manager of the authority, Mr. Peter Parker, who added that tonnage of cargo handled by the port had itself gone down by some ten percent. The shortfall in earnings, Parker attributed to the worldwide recession. Between February, 1981, and January, 1982, some 525 890 tonnes of cargo was handled by the port. This figure does not include bulk material. Parker said the ten percent decrease had brought the losses to about \$1.5 million short of the usual revenue. In an effort to try to regain the usual revenue, "rates have been cut to increase the tonnage of cargo handled as transshipment, as well as other cuts in expenditure wherever possible", Parker said. He said the Port Authority was investigating areas in which it could broaden its revenue base. A feasibility study is yet to be commissioned for the construction of a modern day marina, which will alleviate some of the problems complained of by yachtsmen crossing the Atlantic. To date, three organisations have indicated their intentions to take up space at the Bridgetown Port when plans for new bulk handling facilities materialise. There are ten lots ranging in size from 23 000 to 59 000 square feet, and they will be provided with roads, and a storm water drainage system, electricity and telephone lines, and a water main. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 7 Apr 83 p 20]

PUP EXECUTIVE TASKS ACTION ON SAID MUSA POSITIONS

Belize City THE BEACON in English 31 Mar 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] At the controversial meeting held last Wednesday at Party Headquarters of the National Executive of the People's United Party (PUP), Minister Said Musa moved a resolution which sought to ban "The Voice" newspaper and to censure all those connected with the newspaper, including PUP Chairman, Minister Louis Sylvestre.

When the matter was put to the vote, Musa succeeded only partly. The National Executive decided that the PUPs associated with "The Voice" should not be censured; however, it voted for the banning of "The Voice" reporting on the activities of Ministers Courtenay, Musa and Shoman.

If Musa did not have things entirely his way on the clamping down of "The Voice" and company, he scored a major coup with regards to the activities of his Democratic Direction, which got a carte-blanc from the PUP National Executive.

The Democratic Direction was given the green light to supervise individual divisions or branches of the PUP without obtaining permission from the respective divisional committees.

This decision of the PUP National Executive paves the way for Democratic Direction to achieve its aim of reorganising the PUP along its own lines, starting at the divisional level, and in effect means that once again the left-wing of the PUP has out-manoeuvred the right-wing.

CSO: 3298/517

ESQUIVEL, OTHER UDP LEADERS VISIT TOLEDO DISTRICT

Belize City THE BEACON in English 31 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] Punta Gorda, 22 Mar--The Party Leader, Senator Manuel Esquivel, spent part of last week in the Toledo District. He paid visits to villages in the Toledo North and Toledo South Divisions, accompanied by Area Representatives Hon. Charles Wagner and Hon. Basilio Ah. Also accompanying the Party Leader from Belize City was Mr. Edwin Morey, former representative for the Toledo North Division and currently Chairman of the Freetown Division.

The Party officials held discussions with leaders in the villages of Pueblo Viejo, Santa Elena, Santa Cruz, San Miguel, San Pedro Colombia, Silver Creek, Cattle Landing, Forest Home, San Felipe, and Santa Anna (Moho). Meetings were also held with members and supporters, and the Women's Pioneers of Punta Gorda Town.

Wherever the Leader went, he was confronted with the serious economic plight and the widespread dissatisfaction of the people with the performance of the government. He was alarmed to learn that in many of the villages of Toledo, the people had decided to stop growing their traditional crops of corn, rice and beans because of the failure of government to offer a fair price for their products, as well as the failure of government to pay the farmers on time.

Many farmers complained that government still owes them money from the last harvest. There are indications that some farmers are turning to marijuana cultivation as the only source for cash left open to them.

* The people of the villages near the Guatemalan border are still frightened from their experience last month when they were driven from their milpas by bands of Guatemalans who had come to take over their lands. Some estimates put the figure as high as 300 Guatemalan men coming across the border to drive the people from their milpas, preventing them from harvesting their corn, and even taking over some of their corn-storing sheds for shelter.

The people are afraid because there is much guerrilla activity across the border in this area, and people across the border disappear regularly. They still do not know who attacked them last month, guerrillas, soldiers, or just politically militant farmers. The area is now calm, and the people can only pray they will not be attacked again. On the way back to Belize City on Saturday, the Party Leader and Mr Morey made stops in Mango Creek and Dangriga to meet briefly with UDP committeemen in those two places.

NEW AMBASSADOR FROM INDIA MEETS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 3 Apr 83 p 2

[Excerpts] The Indian High Commissioner to Belize, Mr D C Manners, who was accredited on Monday, March 28, says the degree of friendliness that his government and the people of India have for the people of Belize is evident when a minister of the government of India came here to take part in the independence celebrations.

Speaking at the presentation of credentials ceremony in Belmopan, Mr Manners said his government was pleased on Belize's participation at the recent Non Aligned Summit in New Delhi. He added that he sincerely wishes that his visit to Belize will not only be a landmark in the history of the two countries but also pave the way for expanding friendly relations in various areas.

His Excellency, the Governor General, Dr Minita Gordon welcomed and congratulated the Indian High Commissioner on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen and the government and people of Belize. She spoke of the strong support received from India for Belize's independence and noted that we share common membership through the Commonwealth of Nations, the United Nations and the Non Aligned Movement.

"Belize" she said "has a long association with the people of India. We are happy and proud of the Indian community--the old community that came to help Belize develop its sugar industry, those now involved in the mercantile community and those who serve us now in the various professions."

Later in the morning the Indian High Commissioner was received by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt Hon George Price. The High Commissioner also held discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Rogers, Ministers Said Musa, Assad Shoman and Florencio Marin.

CSO: 3298/517

BRIEFS

SUGAR PRODUCTION--The Belize Sugar Board says it has been established that there is sufficient cane in both Orange Walk and Corozal districts to achieve the targeted production of 110,000 tons of sugar for the 1983 crop. According to the Board's report for the month of February, total production up to March 1 was 39,763 tons of sugar. The first sugar shipments of the 1983 crop were made in February. The Belize Sugar Industries shipped 7,874 long tons to the United Kingdom under the E. E. C. quota and 5,250 tons to the United States of America under the terms of the International Sugar Agreement. Total export figures for the current year is 13,124 tons. The report says the weather for the month of February was for the most part, cool and dry and favourable for cane reaping except the last weekend of the month when sudden heavy showers flooded low-lying areas and temporarily delayed cane deliveries. Both factories have continued to perform over 90% overall efficiency, with cane purities averaging over 86%. The reports adds that the average ton-of-cane per ton-of-sugar figure has been improving over last year's. [Text] [Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 Mar 83 p 4]

CSO: 3298/517

VANDALISM, ATTACKS ON POLICE NOTED ; SENATOR OFFERS COMMENT

Thrift Shop Incident

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 5 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

Bottle-throwing vandals have forced operators of the Bargain Box to close the doors of the thrift shop for one week.

According to Mrs. Bea Stott, chairman of The Bargain Box, the closure means a loss of revenue for the used goods Serpentine Road shop, whose profits go to the Committee of 25 for Handicapped Children.

On Monday, she entered the Bargain Box to find "glass everywhere". Mischief-makers had thrown bottles through the windows, causing shattered glass to cover clothing on display. There was no way that the Bargain Box could be open by Wednesday, Mrs. Stott said.

The Bargain Box, which operates on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, would be open for business next Wednesday, said Mrs. Stott.

She also revealed that the shop had been hit by 20 break-ins or attempted break-ins in the past six months.

"I don't know why," she said. "There is nothing here for them, just used clothing and things."

Mrs. Stott believes that the culprits are football fans looking for excitement when the game is over.

"They get to drinking and there is nothing else to do," she said.

UBP Senator's Comments

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 7 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

Senator Robert Barritt has answered critics who slammed him for comments he made in a television interview about last week's Court Street incident in which two policemen were injured and a Police car was destroyed by a firebomb.

Several people had accused the United Bermuda Party Senator of being more sympathetic to criminals than the Police. Mr. Barritt said in a Letter to the Editor he believed the Police did a good job in the community.

But he said he felt incidents such as the one in

Court Street on March 28 were not spontaneous as claimed by the Police, and were often caused by a "few over-zealous officers".

He explained that the TV interview was a condensed version of a lengthy discussion on a wide range of incidents and attitudes in

the community to the Police.

"My opening remarks in the interview commending the Police force generally on the good job that they do in the community unfortunately were not aired," he said.

"When I spoke of the 'approach to Bermudians' I certainly was not thinking Court Street and that particular incident. Having accepted criticism from several friends on my remarks, I hastily reviewed the TV clip and could easily see why people got the impression that I was being critical of the action taken by the Police in that extremely difficult situation."

Mr. Barritt said he had discussed the matter with Deputy Police Commissioner

Clive Donald who had explained what had happened and had described the incident as spontaneous.

"So I was in no position to comment on that incident, but I was extremely disturbed by it and do not accept that it is totally spontaneous," said Mr. Barritt.

He said that some people held strong feelings about Police action in several areas of Bermuda.

"A suggestion was made that a meeting should take place in order to get some dialogue going to ease what was, and still is, a potentially dangerous situation," he said.

"I happen to believe it is wiser to talk (even wiser to listen) before an incident takes place, although the record book shows we usually do our talking after the damage is done.

New Attack on Police

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

Policemen making an arrest were attacked on Angle Street last night by a missile-throwing crowd — the second such incident in two weeks.

One policeman was injured and two Police cars slightly damaged in the short-lived fracas.

The name of the injured policeman, who was hit on the head with a bottle, was not disclosed by the Police last night. He was treated at King Edward VII Hospital and later released.

"Such talks must be 'off the record' and confidential as they are very sensitive and it is most important that all media recognise just how important that it is to the community and resist the temptation to pressure for a story.

"While often these anti-Police actions seem spontaneous, I believe much of it comes from an accumulation of incidents caused by a few over-zealous officers."

Mr. Barritt said he had no desire to play politics at the expense of the Police, and that was why he would want talks to be held in private.

"Bermuda lives and property are substantial stakes and it costs very little to listen," he said.

CSO: 3298/528

DOCKERS' WORK-TO-RULE CAUSES CARGO BACKLOG AT PORT

Congestion Problem

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 7 Apr 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Importers are already facing problems in bringing cargo into the Island because of the overtime ban and work to rule imposed by 74 stevedores working the Hamilton freight docks. General Manager of the Stevedoring Services company that employs the longshoremen, Mr. Michael Lohan, said yesterday the the problem will grow until a new labour contract is hammered out.

"The work to rule is continuing and is causing a congestion problem on the waterfront. It will shortly become a serious problem," said Mr. Lohan yesterday.

The work to rule and ban on overtime was imposed last weekend by the dock workers whose two-year contract with employers Stevedoring Services expired on March 31. The Government Labour Relations Officer has been called in to mediate.

Stevedoring Services is the Island's only stevedoring company employing full-time longshoremen — all on the Hamilton freight docks. More than 225,000 tons of cargo are moved over the docks each year.

"The work to rule has happened at an awkward time," said Mr. Lohan, adding that in addition to the regular container ships, a total of three ships carrying cars, and a cruise ship also put into Bermuda over the past week.

"There will be delays in the delivery of cargo because of the unavailability of men to strip the containers," said Mr. Lohan.

With current shipping schedules, longshoremen unload ships one day, strip and discharge containers the next for delivery another day.

But the ban on overtime and the work to rule has kept the stevedores unloading ships to keep the port of Hamilton clear. And two more ships carrying cargo including cars, came alongside Hamilton yesterday.

Longshoremen will now have to discharge those two vessels before stripping containers already on the docks.

"There has been no progress in negotiations," said Mr. Ottiwell Simmons, M.P., President of the Bermuda Industrial Union representing the port workers. "From what I have been made to understand, there is some backlog of cargo."

Breakdown of Negotiations

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

Hamilton docks will remain backlogged with cargo for the second weekend in a row as 74 stevedores continue to impose a ban on overtime and work to rule imposed after negotiations for a new contract broke down.

The longshoremen employed by Stevedoring Services took action after their previous two-year contract expired on March 31.

"Both sides met all day today," said Government Labour Relations Officer Mr. Gladstone Bassett, called in to mediate when negotiations broke down. "It's difficult to say if any progress was made, but they did meet all day and broke up this evening. The meetings will resume on Monday."

CSO: 3298/528

GOVERNMENT AUDITOR COMPLAINS OF IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Apr 83 pp 1, 7

[Excerpt]

G o v e r n m e n t
Auditor Larry Dennis complained last night of his "frustration" at his short-staffed department's inability to do a professional job of checking public spending.

The straight-talking auditor criticised the slow way Government has moved to upgrade his department into an office properly equipped to monitor public accounts.

"I am becoming very frustrated," said Mr. Dennis. "I think it is true to say that I cannot really do a professional job at the moment.

"In the audit report for 1980 which is going to Parliament in a couple of months, I am going to say something to that effect."

His comments came a week after two key assistants — auditors Mr. Shaukat

Murad and Mr. Nigel Chism — quit their jobs after serving little more than a year of their three-year contracts.

"I think both of them became very frustrated with their jobs," said Mr. Dennis.

"Since I have been here, my whole aim has been to recruit chartered accountants. They are the most highly trained accountants in Government but they are the lowest paid accountants in Government."

Mr. Dennis said he has tried for years to re-organise his department, upgrade it and improve salaries.

Former Minister, the Hon. Sir John Plowman, who was responsible for Government Services, told him that audit department improvements were not a Government priority.

But after making "a lot of fuss recently" Mr. Dennis has finally been told that a review will go ahead — probably conducted by Col. Donald Pudney.

USE OF LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT FORCES FARMER MILITANCY

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

A total of 20 percent of Bermuda's remaining arable land has already been granted planning approval for subdivision development, according to farmers' spokesman Mr. Richard DeMoura.

Speaking at a Hamilton Rotary Club lunch yesterday at the Bermudiana Hotel, Mr. DeMoura also said that farmers had now been forced into becoming what some observers had labelled "militant".

"Our problem today is so drastic that some have said that farmers have become militant in their attitude towards the preservation of arable land," said Mr. DeMoura.

"If that is so, then we will have to remain militant."

In a brief outline of the Island's agricultural history, Mr. DeMoura noted that in 1921 a total of 3,000 acres were deemed arable. Today, that figure stands at 800, with farmers producing \$7 million annually in produce sold at the wholesale level.

"We have reached a point in our history that we have 800 acres left," said Mr. DeMoura. "And now comes the shock — out of the remaining 800 acres, 20 percent, or 160 acres, have already been approved for subdivision.

"We have got to stop this senseless rape of our arable land."

Mr. DeMoura said that while the farmers may have become militant, they had a good deal of public support behind their call for the preservation of arable land and open space.

In the space of one-and-one-half hours during a recent National Trust Walk, farmers collected 1,371 signatures supporting the petition urging the preservation of Bermuda's remaining land, said Mr. DeMoura.

He added that current problems affect not only dirt farmers, but poultry, hog, and most critically, the dairy farmers.

Dairy farmer Mr. Harry Kromer faces eviction from The Pampas farm in Smith's Parish. Unless he can find another farm before his May 11 eviction date, he will be forced to destroy his 135 strong herd, which produces 75 percent of the Island's fresh milk.

"If Government does not make a decision by May 11 to alleviate the problem, 75 percent of the milk industry will be lost forever," said Mr. DeMoura. "It is important for Government to assist in the finding of open space land for Mr. Kromer."

BRIEFS

SELECTION OF GOVERNOR—Three weeks after the resignation of former Governor Sir Richard Posnett, Bermuda is still waiting to hear news of a successor. A spokesman from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London refused to shed any light on the issue yesterday. "When we are ready to make the announcement of a new Governor, we will do so," said the spokesman. "I have nothing to add." A spokeswoman at the office of Acting Governor Mr. Mark Herdman said he would be sure to release some information as soon as anything was known. "We have heard nothing at all," she said. "It is just a matter of waiting. Sir Richard formally stepped down as Governor on March 15 amid accusations of financial irregularities at Government House. The details of Sir Richard's alleged misuse of public funds have still not been released. The former Governor left Bermuda for London in February and has not returned. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 7 Apr 83 p 2]

CSO: 3298/529

FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES MEETING SCHWEITZER

PY111906 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Velardo Dorado made it clear today that he held no official meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Alex Schweitzer in Buenos Aires, as recently reported in Santiago, Chile, after the Group of 77 meeting.

The Chilean foreign minister stated last week that he had held a very friendly talk with Velarde Dorado, adding that although they had agreed on nothing, in particular, the fact that they now know each other might be useful.

Minister Velarde Dorado stated that his talk with the La Moneda government representative was by chance because it took place during a reception hosted by President Reynaldo Bignone at the Argentine Government House. The reception was attended by the foreign ministers of Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil and Uruguay.

Velarde Dorado stated that during the meeting he identified Chilean Foreign Minister Schweitzer because of his accent and way of speaking. He added that his Chilean counterpart is an intelligent and broadminded person who seems to be adequately heeding the situations experienced by his predecessor, Rene Rojas Galdames. In statements quoted by the international press some time ago, former Foreign Minister Rojas Galdames said that the negotiations [passage indistinct].

The Bolivian foreign minister also pointed to [words indistinct] chance of a rapprochement with Bolivia, adding that this would have been impossible without the resolutions approved by the OAS in Washington and by the nonaligned meetings in Managua and New Delhi.

CSO: 3348/322

BRIEFS

FORMER PRESIDENT CRITICIZES REGIME--La Paz, 9 Apr (AFP)--Former Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro stated in La Paz today that no extremism of the left will replace the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] and that the MNR will not negotiate any pact with the civilian organization of the right which benefited from military regimes. On commemorating the 31st anniversary of the popular insurrection which took him to power with current President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Paz Estanssoro, one of the leaders of the national revolution which, after the military defeat of the army, carried out profound socio-political changes, released an extensive message. In his message Paz Estenssoro states that the current government has lost its ability to govern under the sway of the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party [PCV], which is cogoverning with Siles Zuazo. The great majority of the Bolivian people will not find any political solution in extranational parties, the former president and leader of the main opposition party, the MNR, stated. In his message, Paz Estenssoro harshly criticized the military governments of the past 20 years, saying that these governments accrued tremendous errors at the service of antipopular and antinational interests. [Excerpt] [PY111910 Paris AFP in Spanish 1818 GMT 9 Apr 83]

CASTRO'S ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS--Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, addressed a message to Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo on the 31st anniversary of the 1952 Bolivian revolutions. The newspaper PRESENCIA, published in La Paz, highlights Fidel Castro's message side by side with those of other international personalities. The message of congratulation to Siles Zuazo expresses Cuba's solidarity with his firm determination and that of the Bolivian people to deepen the development of the process started on 9 April 1952 and resumed on 10 October 1982. Fidel Castro's message stressed: We take this opportunity to reiterate Cuba's firm, determined support to you, your party, the political forces making up the people's democratic union and the organizations identified with the current deomocratic process. [Text] [PA101500 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 83]

UNEMPLOYMENT IN LA PAZ--INE [National Statistics Institute] reports that there are currently 33,700 unemployed in La Paz, adding that 73.4 percent of this figure are men and 26.6 percent women. INE also reports that the rate of unemployment totaled 12.27 percent on 31 December 1982. [PY112358 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Apr 83]

COMIBOL DIRECTOR RETURNS FROM MOSCOW--COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] general manager Oscar Torrico has returned from the USSR. While in the USSR, Torrico studied the possibility of applying for an additional loan to the Soviet firm Machinoexport to build the Machacamarca volatilization plant. Industry Minister Carlos Barragan reports that the Bolivian Government has not yet decided on the application. [PY112358 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Apr 83]

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS LOAN--The WHO representative to Bolivia (Vladimir Laphousen) reports that the Canadian Government has granted a 50,000 Canadian dollar line of credit to Bolivia through the WHO. The funds will be allocated to purchase medicine, boats and outboard motors for El Beni Department. (Laphousen) also reports that the line of credit was granted upon request from the sanitary unit of El Beni and that the first shipment of medicine will be delivered sometime this week. [PY112358 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT [no day given] Apr 83]

SWEDISH DONATION--The Swedish Government has donated 15 million kronas to Bolivia. The donation will be used by the National Electric Company. Swedish Ambassador Cai Melin and Bolivian Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado signed the corresponding exchange notes. [PY292204 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 83]

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DONATES FUNDS--(Toshio Dakata), Japanese charge d'affaires to Bolivia, donated \$100,000 to the Bolivian Government on 12 April. The funds will be allocated to help families affected by floods and droughts. [PY292204 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Apr 83]

CSO: 3348/322

BRIZOLA TO BE LAUNCHED AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY160143 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Porto Alegre--On commenting on the launching of Leonel Brizola's candidacy for the presidency, which is marked for Sunday in Sao Borja, Rio Grande do Sul State, Deputy (Jarbas Lima) has said that there is a fundamental difference between Brizola and Jair Suarez.

The governor of Rio de Janeiro State wants to be president, but the governor of Rio Grande do Sul State wants to achieve the role of a great civilian leader within the PDS [Social Democratic Party]. Since as the leader of the PDS bloc in the legislative assembly, Jair Suarez will be the civilian alternative for president within the PDS in either direct or indirect elections.

(Jarbas Lima) has indicated that leaders are not hand picked and the Rio Grande do Sul governor is trying out his worth in the Piratini Palace.

CSO: 3342/101

RIO POLL REFLECTS CONFIDENCE IN BRIZOLA ADMINISTRATION

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 28 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] A survey conducted by the Gallup Institute in the city of Rio de Janeiro and its metropolitan region (Sao Joao de Meriti, Nova Iguaçu, Caxias, Nilópolis, Niterói and São Gonçalo) early in March, before Leonel Brizola assumed office, reveals that 82 percent of the 585 respondents felt the new administration would be a change for the better. In the metropolitan region, with 230 respondents, this figure was higher (86 percent), whereas in the city of Rio, 79 percent of the respondents expected an improvement.

The main reason given for Brizola's electoral victory was that he was the candidate who could do more for the people (33 percent of the respondents). Respondents in Rio and the metropolitan area disagree, however; whereas metropolitan residents (37 percent) believe in Brizola's social concerns, Rio residents (31 percent) felt the main issue was the economic crisis, which led the people to vote for the opposition. The respondents chose the lack of security [against crime] as the most troubling problem in the region (35 percent of the voters).

Optimism

All the social classes interviewed are unanimous in declaring that Governor Brizola will be better than Governor Chagas Freitas. The most optimistic figure comes from Class C (87 percent), while the lowest figure is in Class A (70 percent).

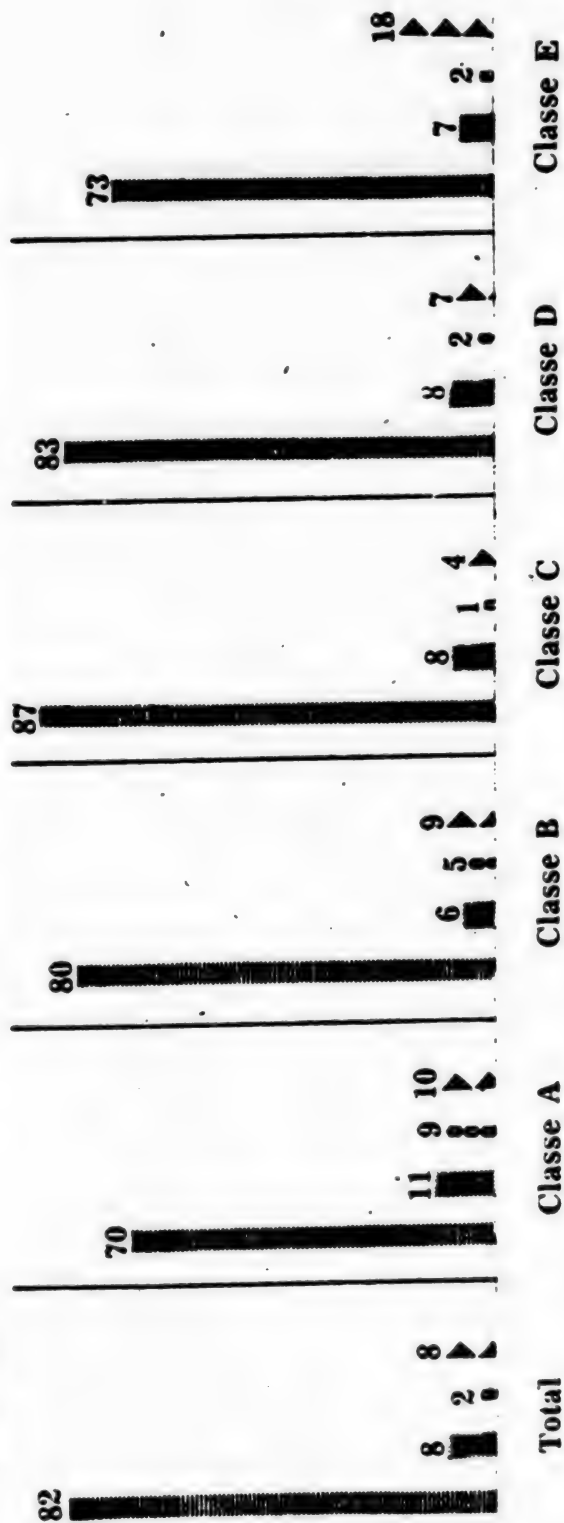
Only 19 percent of Class A and 18 percent of Class B are of the opinion that Brizola was elected because he could do more for the people. Both classes--43 percent in Class A and 42 percent in Class B--indicated another reason: the economic crisis. Classes C (37 percent), D (39 percent) and E (40 percent) responded that Brizola was the candidate in the best position to help the people.

Although the largest proportion of respondents (35 percent) pointed to the lack of security as the major problem in the city where they resided, in the metropolitan area only 20 percent noted the lack of security, whereas 47 percent reported unpaved streets as the major problem, 27 percent noted the lack of piped water and 27 percent responded that the principal problem in their cities is the lack of sewers. For Classes A (57 percent), B (43 percent) and C (36 percent), security is the most serious problem.

(1) O Governo Brizola e a expectativa social

O que as classes sociais esperam da nova administração

- (2) ■ Melhor
(3) ■ Igual
(4) ■ Pior
(5) ▴ Não sabem



Key:

1. Brizola Government and Social Expectations: What the Social Classes Expect of the New Administration

2. Better
3. Worse
4. Same
5. No opinion

The survey also indicates that the major problem faced by Rio de Janeiro State is the cost of living (35 percent of the respondents). However, in the metropolitan region the major concern is unemployment (32 percent). This is also the greatest concern for Class A (30 percent)

6362
CS01 3342/96

POLL SHOWS 74 PERCENT OF VOTERS FAVOR DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Par 83 p 2

[Text] The Gallup Public Opinion Institute yesterday published the results of a national survey conducted in urban areas, revealing that 74 percent of the Brazilian voters favor direct elections for the presidency of the republic. The survey was conducted in February and canvassed 2,619 voters throughout the country. Compared with two other surveys taken in April 1980 and February 1982, the survey indicates that voter expectation of choosing the new president by direct vote is growing. In the first survey (1980), 63 percent of the respondents were in favor, whereas in the second survey (1982), 68 percent of the respondents wished to vote directly for the president. According to the latest survey, 15 percent of the respondents preferred indirect elections and 11 percent were indifferent as to the system of voting.

In its analysis of the figures, Gallup noted that, excluding the respondents who had no opinion or were indifferent on the issue, 83 percent of the voters wanted direct presidential elections and 17 percent preferred indirect elections. Taking in all socioeconomic classes, the survey also revealed that between respondents who opted for direct or indirect elections (excluding those who were indifferent or had no opinion), the preference for direct elections was greater among the less advantaged classes. In Classes C, D and E, the figures were 83, 84 and 85 percent, respectively, whereas in Classes A and B the figures were 76 and 78 percent.

In the higher classes, on the other hand, the phenomenon is reversed regarding the preference for indirect elections. This system is preferred by 24 percent of the voters in Class A, 22 percent in Class B, 17 percent in Class C, 16 percent in Class D and 15 percent in Class E.

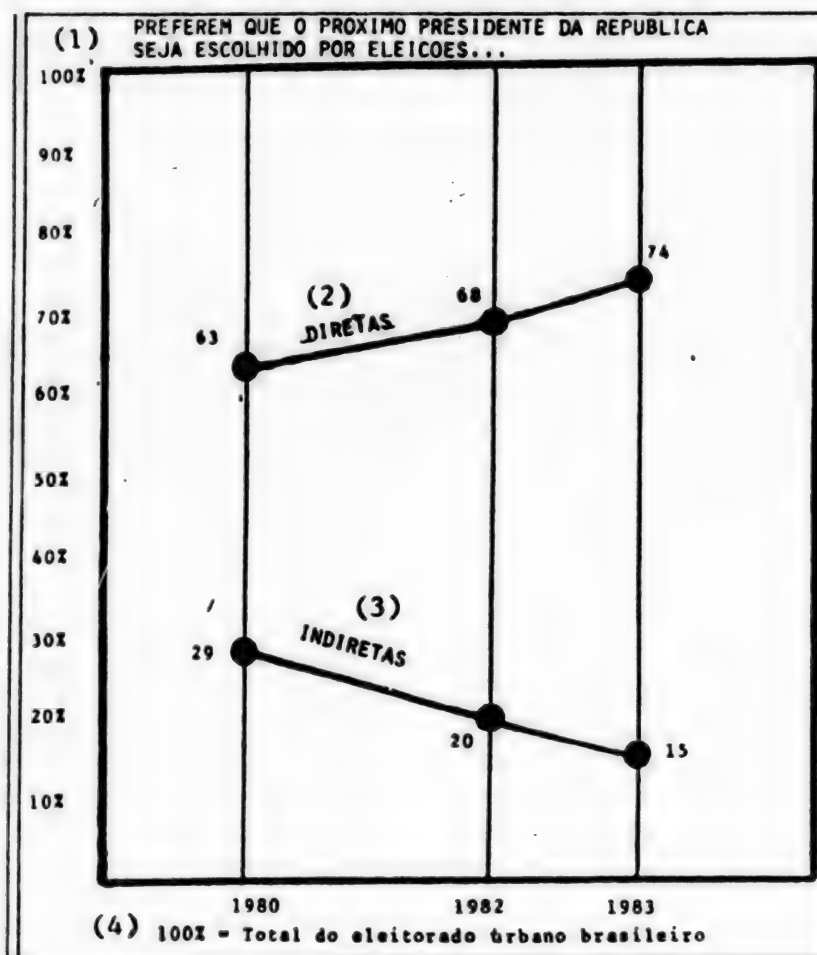
Oppositionists Want Direct Elections

The Gallup Institute also reports that the preference for direct elections is greater among backers of the opposition parties: PDT [Democratic Labor Party] (96 percent); PT [Workers Party] (89 percent); and PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] (88 percent).

Although most of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] and [PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] sympathizers also wanted presidential elections, there was a greater leaning toward indirect elections; 26 percent of the supporters of the government party who had an opinion preferred this system, whereas among PTB supporters

the figure was 21 percent. Among those who expressed no party preference (440 of the 2,619 respondents) 58 percent opted for direct elections and 28 percent were either indifferent (13 percent) or had no opinion (15 percent).

Again excluding those who did not express a preference, Gallup found that voters in the southeast leaned slightly more toward direct presidential elections, whereas the preference for indirect elections was greatest in the north and northeast (20 percent of those interviewed).



Key:

1. Preference for direct or indirect elections for the next president of the republic.
2. Direct
3. Indirect
4. 100%: Total Brazilian urban electorate

Breaking down the results by city of residence, the survey also showed a slightly greater preference for direct presidential elections among respondents residing in the capitals (85 percent). This figure dropped to 82 percent in cities with over 50,000 inhabitants and was 84 percent in cities with a population between 10,101 and 50,000. In smaller cities, with up to 10,000 inhabitants, the preference for indirect elections was slightly greater, standing between 20 and 21 percent.

Gallup notes that the survey interviewed 1,283 males and 1,336 females; 125 respondents were from Class A, 365 from Class B, 922 from Class C, 877 from Class D and 310 from Class E. By region, 475 interviews were conducted in the south (Rio Grande do Sul, Parana and Santa Catarina), 1,296 in the southeast (Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro and Espirito Santo), 595 in the northeast (Bahia, Sergipe, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraiba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceara, Piaui and Maranhao) and 253 in the north and west (Para, Amazonas, Acre, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Goias and the Federal District). The survey was conducted in 178 different cities, and 820 of the 2,619 interviews were conducted in capital cities.

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CS01 3342/96

SAO PAULO GOVERNOR SCORES PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS

PY151705 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] In the sea fightings against the rock, it is the shellfish that usually gets hurt when the sea smashes against the rocks. This is the conclusion of the Sao Paulo public employees in commenting on the speech made by Governor Franco Montoro on the financial economic situation of the state.

According to Montoro, it will be very difficult to have an increase higher than 40 percent. He also held responsible former Governors Paulo Salim Maluf and Jose Maria Marim for the culpable manner in which they used public money.

[Begin Montoro recording] The previous governments have left a debt of 150 billion cruzeiros that has to be paid.

Moreover, in the beginning of this year, several projects, including the so-called Marimsao, which will cost more than 50 billion cruzeiros to the state treasury, were begun.

During the same period, the previous government approved expenditures not provided for in the budget, which amount to 84 billion cruzeiros. These expenditures reduce by 30 percent the so-called emergency reserve, whose natural destination should be the salary readjustment of public employees.

Of these 84 billion cruzeiros, approximately 66 billion have been used without the consent of the appropriate technical organizations. Thirty billion were used for the construction of the eastern highway, and 10 billion cruzeiros were used by Paulipetro [Sao Paulo Petroleum Corporation]. [end recording]

Montoro also told about his plans to tackle the problems his administration is confronting.

[Begin Montoro recording] We are beginning an emergency program to stimulate the creation of jobs through the administration of the state, with support to the prefectures, and through an appeal to all active organizations of society and of private initiative. [end recording]

CONGRESSIONAL FRONT TO FIGHT FOR UNE LEGALIZATION

Former UNE Presidents

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 28 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] Brasilia--Some of the student leaders who were imprisoned and persecuted and who lived the adventure of being underground are today in the national congress. For the first time in the political history of the country, the Chamber of Deputies has in a single legislature two former presidents of the National Students Union (UNE), outlawed since 1964: Aldo Arantes (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party--PMDB--Goiias) and Jose Luiz Moreira Guedes (PMDB--Minas Gerais), both amnestied in 1979.

A native of Goias, 43 years of age, Aldo Arantes was president of the UNE between July 1961 and July 1962, and Jose Luiz Guedes, a native of Minas, 41 years of age, was president between 1966 and 1967. But they are not the only former student leaders in congress today who, as they said, are prepared to form a congressional front on behalf of the legalization and official recognition of the organization.

Aldo Arantes was active in the student movement until 1964 when he was forced to flee to Uruguay. Then there were 3 more years of imprisonment and torture, according to him, and 11 years underground in Sao Paulo. Only after the amnesty did Aldo succeed in concluding his law course begun in the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro when, at 23 years of age, he was invited to become a candidate for federal deputy but refused because he was accused of using the UNE as a political springboard.

Jose Luiz Guedes was active in the university movement until 1968 when he was imprisoned during the holding of the Congress of Ibiuna (Sao Paulo), but only for a week.

Since persecution continued, Guedes decided to leave the country in 1974, going into exile in Paris. He returned to the country in September 1979, joined the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB) and, after the party reform, the PMDB.

Although he represents the Workers Party (PT) of Sao Paulo in the chamber in his first legislature as federal deputy, Jose Genoio Neto is a native of

Ceara, 42 years of age. He was also arrested in 1968 but succeeded in fleeing and ended up becoming vice president of the UNE in 1969. Genoio reveals that he contributed greatly to the reorganization of the UNE with the congress held in May 1979 in Salvador, Bahia. Today he plans to join with the other congressmen in the struggle for the official recognition of the organization.

Another PT member who was also a student leader is Jose Eudes (Rio de Janeiro), a native of Pernambuco, who was only active in the secondary school movement between 1966 and 1970. Since then he has maintained permanent relations with the students.

Marcelo Cordeiro (PMDB-Bahia), 36 years of age, was a student leader from the time he entered the law course in the Federal University of Bahia in 1965. He was president of the Students Union of Bahia and left school in 1969, ousted by Decree-Law 477. Also a former leader of the university movement in Bahia, Haroldo Lima is in the PMDB today, representing his state in the chamber.

Aldo Arantes To Organize

Brasília CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 17 Mar 83 p 6

[Text] After being installed in the chamber as PMDB representative for Goiás, the former president of the UNE, Aldo Arantes, announced in the press committee his intention of forming a group of former leaders of the National Students Union (UNE), who are now serving terms in that house of congress, for the purpose of achieving the legalization of that student organization.

President of the UNE until the eve of the 1964 revolution by which he was ousted on the basis of Institutional Act-1, Aldo Arantes assumed the vacancy resulting from the appointment of Deputy Adhemar Santillo (PMDB Goiás) as secretary of education and culture in the government of Iris Rezende.

Objectives

In addition to working for the formation of a group of deputies coming from leadership posts in the UNE, such as Jose Frejat (Democratic Labor Party--PDT--Rio de Janeiro) and Jose Luiz Guedes (PMDB--Minas Gerais), Deputy Aldo Arantes declared that he is going to be work in the progressive wing of his party and intransigently support agrarian reform, a National Constituent Assembly and direct elections at all levels.

National Security Law

He said that it is also his intention to call for revocation of the National Security Law and explanations from the government on the "Baumgarten case," if necessary even with the creation of Congressional Investigating Committee aimed at investigating the episode of the death of the journalist.

In taking the regular oath to the constitution together with alternatives Ruy Codo (PMDB-Sao Paulo) and Fernando Bastos (Social Democratic Party--PDS--Santa Catarina), Deputy Aldo Arantes did it "with reservation" according to the policy of the PMDB leadership. In that regard, he pledged that he is going to follow the program line of the party as a whole, without disagreement.

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CSO: 3342/97

PCB CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER MALINA ON DEMOCRATIZATION

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 27 Mar 83 p 4

[Interview with Salomao Malina, member of the Central Committee of the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB); date and place not given]

[Text] "The national crisis is the most serious in our history; any serious alternative has to indicate a solution and that is what the people expect from the opposition governments; debt does not affect only Brazil but a large group of countries; in the developed countries, there are people who are concerned about the debt of the Third World; reneging is not a good idea; the debt has to be negotiated on a sovereign basis; we do not have a miracle solution; Brazil is a viable country and with the democratization of national life, we are going to find the road to resolve the debt issue."

Although it may not seem to leave any room for doubt, the positions are not from Planning Minister Delfim Netto or any economic official of the Figueiredo government, the assessment is by Salomao Malina, an influential member of the National Collective of Communist Leaders--the Central Committee of the Communist Party--which only differs from those of the ministers in the [economic] area where he broaches the idea of gathering together the countries in a critical situation such as Brazil--with monstrous debts--to seek a common solution.

The Interview

[Question] As everybody knows, the communists supported the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) in the last elections. With the elections over, what is the expectation of the communists with regard to the opposition governors?

[Answer] The victory of the opposition parties in 10 states, among the most important and richest in the country, and the winning of a majority in the Chamber of Deputies was, without a doubt, a reaffirmation of a desire for change on the part of the Brazilian people. The expectation of the communists and of the majority of the people is that the elected governments will collaborate so that this alternative may become a reality. However, that road cannot be traversed by a single party. That great work of change is a

task for all the opposition parties, the democratic sectors of the Social Democratic Party (PDS), organizations from civilian society interested in the political process of the various popular organizations, and individuals.

For the communists, the question that is posed today is the reorganization of national democratic and political life. For that reason, we are in favor of a free and sovereign National Constituent Assembly, as a radical way of resolving this problem. This does not mean that some partial measures, even though not a definite solution to national problems, cannot be supported by the communists and by other opposition movements.

[Question] President Figueiredo recently launched a proposal for a truce in the country. What is the opinion of the communists about this matter?

[Answer] It is not easy to make an assessment of Figueiredo's proposal because it lacks greater clarity. The communists have declared clearly that the crisis is very serious and that the combined efforts of the patriotic and nationalist segments are needed to overcome it. And in the day-to-day context, almost all of the measures adopted by the government thus far do not move in that direction. On the contrary, they penalize the workers and the Brazilian people more and more and mean greater unemployment in the country, greater surrendering of our resources, carrying the risk of the dismantlement of our industrial park. We are against those measures. If the government adopted a position to move in the direction of the real interests of the nation, retreating from that disastrous situation, it would get our support.

The formulation of a combination of proposals of that type has to be preceded by a deep democratization in the life of the country. Beginning with the cancer that is corroding the whole national political life: the banner of anticommunism, that has served for every type of assault against the freedoms and democracy in Brazil. A recent example may be cited. At a time when the government is asking for proposals, when the communists put out a document offering a proposal to the nation for getting out of this disastrous situation, the communists are attacked and the newspaper VOZ DA UNIDADE is simply prevented from circulating. How can we understand that type of truce?

[Question] In all of the documents disseminated by the communists, it is stated that one of the principal contradictions in Brazil at the present time is the irreversible tendency of national democratization and the attempt of the government to reform itself. How would the truce proposal fit in that context?

[Answer] There has obviously been an effort at selfreform on the part of this regime since 1974 and particularly 1982, when it was defeated at the polls, an attempt to expand its social bases. In general, the democratic forces have succeeded in advancing as they defeat the government's proposals, normally timid and distant from reality and always seeking to maintain the authoritarian essence of the regime. That selfreform seeks to perpetuate itself in a framework of crisis the responsibility of which belongs to this government, where those most hurt are the workers and the beneficiaries are

the multinational groups. The idea of selfreform carries with it the exclusion of the real participation of the popular and democratic strata in the decisions of national interest. Right now, after the elections, those measures were clearly demonstrated when the government took the power of the political police and application of the [national security] law away from the hands of the opposition governors, as occurred in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. At the same time, distrusting these governments, the government practically placed the military police of the states under the direct control of the central power. Obviously, these are measures that do not permit us to have confidence in the government.

[Question] Governor Tancredo Neves has let it be understood that he can support the indirect nomination of the next president of the republic, a position that is contrary to the program of the PMDB. How do the communists assess the position of the Minas governor?

[Answer] Two references for us. We are in favor of direct elections at all levels, including that for president of the republic. The other matter for us is that the discussion and nomination of names to run for the presidency now, without being connected with a program, is premature and does not respond to the objectives of Brazilian society. The democratic forces have to discuss a consensus program, and the question of the name is secondary.

[Question] Could the proposals of Governor Tancredo Neves cause serious splits within the PMDB and the democratic front itself?

[Answer] I do not believe so. Naturally, I cannot foresee the future but Governor Tancredo Neves as well as the other governors elected by the opposition have a commitment with demands coming from the bottom up, emerging from the people, and that will certainly force unity. Tancredo Neves has given examples of political maturity.

[Question] In November, the communists were on the side of Miro Teixeira's campaign in Rio de Janeiro; today, with Brizola elected, what are the positions of the communists with regard to their governor?

[Answer] In November we supported the possible democratic alternative in all the states, in our view the PMDB. With the election law forcing the mutilation of the vote, banning coalitions, one had to vote for nationally viable candidates who could form a democratic bloc, after being elected, with much greater strength. Leonel Brizola was elected by the opposition and he is part of that broad political front. Despite our differences with some of Leonel Brizola's opinions, we will fight so that he may be able to fulfill his government program.

[Question] Does that mean that the communists will not oppose the Brizola government on principle?

[Answer] We believe that in order for Brizola to govern he will be called upon to work together with all sectors of the opposition and the population of Rio de Janeiro. Therefore, we have not established any policy of opposition to his government.

[Question] It seems that the communists are interested in presenting a petition for legalization to the Ministry of Justice. In the present political framework, with proposals of truce and reconciliation, is it appropriate for the PCB to try to become legalized?

[Answer] We are fighting for legalization because we exist. We are trying precisely to fulfill the requirements of the law to enter with our petition for legalization. As for the matter of opportuneness, the time is as good as any other. A legalized PCB will not be just another party. We are a unitary force and our presence on the political scene in an open manner will, without doubt, be a contribution to the unity of the democratic forces. At the same time, the legal Communist Party is going to take away from the hands of the security organs, from all the underworld of the regime and all those forces that want muddy waters so as to fish in muddy waters, the central reason for their existence: anticommunism.

[Question] Considering the absence of the form of party coalition, does not the legalization of the PCB clash with the formulation of the concept of the Democratic Front?

[Answer] First, there is no prohibition against party coalition but rather election coalition. The parties can, through their programs, assume common struggles. When the election contest begins, then that is when one analyzes how to conduct the matter in a more detailed manner. The principal problem of the democratic forces is not connected with candidates. What needs to be clearly defined is how are we going to solve the crisis.

[Question] The PCB had its day in national political life and even had a large representation in the national congress in 1946. At the present time, it is common to hear the statement that the communists no longer carry any weight in Brazilian society. How do you see the communist question in Brazil today?

[Answer] Without a legal Communist Party there will not be democracy in Brazil. We are the only group from the left that since 1964 has been against any type of adventure and have always taken the position that the solution to the Brazilian political process had at its center the question of democratic freedoms. That issue has progressed, and it was for that that we suffered persecutions, were boycotted, could not appear, and that caused the communists to become a little known force in the course of this process. Now, whether we are going to have our place in society or not, only life will tell.

[Question] Up to the 1950's, the PCB was practically the only leftist group in the country. Especially after 1964, innumerable other organizations emerged in that area. What has that changed in the action of the communists?

[Answer] Strictly speaking, that exclusive monopoly never existed. The Brazilian Labor Party (PTB), for example, had great strength among the working class, just as did the Social Progressive Party (PSP) of Adhemar de Barros, and even Janio Quadros, at certain times. In that period, the PCB worked in

very close alliances with the PTB. What is new is the appearance of Marxist groups on the national scene. It is up to the people and the workers to judge the proposals.

[Question] What are the solutions to our economic crisis?

[Answer] In the first place, do away with the recessive policy. In a country with an alarming level of unemployment, any [economic] model one may want to establish has to take that social reality into account. In the second place, any solution must be based on our domestic market and give up that idea of the exporter model. To see the solution for a country in exporting is madness. Brazilian exports from 1964 until today have probably increased close to six times while the foreign debt has had a greater growth. Today we maintain an exploitation relationship with the multinationals and that needs to be broken. The communists do not advocate Brazil breaking with those countries, nor its economic isolation. However, it is necessary to make a reassessment of those relations and for them to be conducted in another manner, taking into account national interests. In the third place, it is necessary to lend impetus to the Brazilian market and to raise the people's standard of living.

[Question] Brazil has a foreign debt that amounts to \$90 billion. Some Brazilian sectors are even talking about the need to renege. Is that the opinion of the communists?

[Answer] The question of the debt is serious and cannot be handled the way it has been done until now. The current policy is shaping the Brazilian economy to the interests of the multinationals and the big foreign banks. An important fact is that debt does not affect only Brazil but a large group of countries. Would it not be the occasion to have the unity of those countries in the quest for a common solution? Even in the so-called developed countries, there are people concerned about the question of the debt of the Third World countries because they know that they can also sink. The communists do not have a miracle solution. We do not believe that the idea of reneging is a good idea. It has to be negotiated on a sovereign basis and the figures of the debt themselves have to be reviewed openly. Brazil is a viable country and with the democratization of national life, we are going to find the road to resolve the problem of the debt.

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CSO: 3342/97

CARDINAL ARNS DISCUSSES FUTURE POLITICAL ACTION BY CEB'S

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 83 p 8

[Article by Carlos de Oliveira]

[Text] Shortly before the November elections, Cardinal Arns pointed out in an interview with FOLHA DE SAO PAULO that the CEB's [Basic Church Communities] would not play a decisive role on behalf of any party. He said: "They are small nuclei, and what they can do in fact is educate and train people to be more aware politically." It was during that period that Cardinal Arns began to establish the framework for political activity by the CEB's, which were designed not to be electoral and temporary in nature but to be organizations for training in "long-term participatory democracy."

Now, with the elections over and the political picture clarified, everything indicates that the cardinal was right. Although always associated with the Workers Party, the CEB's in fact were not able to improve that group's position on the electoral scene. From now on, participation--the key to political activity by the communities--will be required. So much so, in fact, that in the days preceding the elections, the cardinal sent a message to the candidates: "They need to be prepared, because it is not going to be very easy to be a municipal councilor or state deputy."

Rank-and-file unity concerning the population's needs and the systematic questioning of whoever is in power will therefore be the policy of the communities. Identified with the proposals that came out of the conference in Puebla, the CEB's will continue to concentrate on changing the socioeconomic and political system now in effect, which the church considers "sinful."

The Basic Church Communities (CEB's) attached to the Archdiocese of Sao Paulo are organizing to demand fulfillment of all the promises of people's participation that were made by the Montoro government and to keep a close watch on the performance of the elected deputies and municipal councilors. According to the

cardinal archbishop of Sao Paulo, Paulo Evaristo Arns, "15 November was only the beginning, not the end, of political participation by the communities, and I guarantee that most of them will even set a deadline for the politicians to come discuss their problems. There are many people making note of the promises."

Following the same line of reasoning as Cardinal Arns, the bishop of Sao Paulo's Eastern Zone, Angelico Sandalo Bernardino, confirmed the intention of the CEB's to check up on the politicians and even went a little further. In his opinion, that disposition on the part of the communities is due in fact to the circumstance that "to some extent, they fear that they are facing a government whose intentions are somewhat populist but dressed up in modern methods."

Because of that fear, the CEB's are adopting "a position of expectation concerning the current government's behavior in response to demands, pressures from the people, and strikes by the worker movement. Strikes will be a major test for the government," said Bishop Sandalo. In any case, despite that cautious posture on the part of the communities, the bishop of the Eastern Zone guaranteed that the CEB's will not a priori have any sort of ill will toward the Montoro government.

He said: "On the contrary, they are prepared, out of a sense of justice, to support any move consistent with the liberation of our people that may also come from the present government. Our CEB's believe that the new government is going to do a lot to meet the people's demands."

Choosing the Mayor

According to the bishop, one of the first demands by the CEB's is that they be allowed to participate in "suggesting certain individuals for certain posts to which the government has promised to do more than simply appoint people. This concerns the mayor and the heads of the regional administrations. The government has said that it would heed the people's suggestions, and the communities would not only like to participate in making those choices, but will in fact participate, since this involves a commitment by the government."

Another concern of the CEB's will be to see that the politicians pay attention to the problems experienced in the everyday life of the city's neighborhoods. This is the case, for example, with flooding, trash disposal, and school construction. Sandalo observed that the basic communities are awakening neighborhoods to the fact that "everything the government does in the suburbs--and it does very little--is nothing more than what it is obligated to do, because it does those things with taxes paid by the people." In the bishop's opinion, "the view that we are in no way receiving favors in a paternalistic manner is an awareness that the CEB's are working to increase in the soul of the people."

Will not Be Tolerated

It is that awareness of participation that Cardinal Arns calls the political activity of the CEB's: "An action whose goal is the common good through nonviolent means." In that connection, Cardinal Arns was emphatic in saying that the communities "will not tolerate being kept from participating. If they are

not heeded in some form when they make an appeal, or if they are not consulted when a decision affecting them is being made, I feel that this will be the first very serious point."

In the cardinal's opinion, the CEB's also will not tolerate any type of violence. "The way the people are treated is another very important point. They have been treated violently for a long time, and that violence has taken various forms: repression and the surprises of measures concerning which the people were not advised or concerning which there was no public discussion. Those are the 'packages'--real examples of violence."

But there is also a third point to be checked up on, according to Cardinal Arns: "All the communities and the people in general are hoping that the government will make a frontal attack on small rather than big programs--that it will not go in for gigantic public works. They do not want this administration to be marked by the construction, for example, of a big highway or a big viaduct. The people are tired of big projects. The people want projects that are close to them. Pharaoh-like projects anger the people--they repel the people instead of bringing them closer and arousing admiration. Those big projects are almost always linked to one person, and their value is debatable. This has dominated almost every government in the past. Every government, both municipal and state and also in the Federal area, has wanted to leave behind a public work that will aggrandize it, while the people love someone like Faria Lima, who used to be present everywhere, even though he did not talk much."

Cardinal Arns also emphasized that the CEB's "are a special antenna for learning about the people's needs. In the first place, this is because they must meet weekly and analyze what is weighing most heavily on the inhabitants and see the overall circumstances without isolating themselves from what is going on in the other communities in the municipality, the state, and the country. They are going to be a very powerful antenna through which to evaluate what is being done within the framework of the demands that they discover through the Gospel and the struggle being waged for the good of all."

"Awaken Attitudes"

After emphasizing that the basic communities do not exist primarily to demand the keeping of promises, Cardinal Arns said that the role of those organizations "is to create a climate of participation that will necessarily lead the people to make those demands themselves. They start from the principle that everything is common to all as far as the development of people and society is concerned. They are going to demand fulfillment of the promises, but not on their own: they are going to awaken attitudes and--who knows?--they will often be the soul of those needing courage."

That stand by Cardinal Arns is said to form the basis of genuine democracy, which, in Bishop Sandalo's opinion, "is born of the awareness of the people who participate in it." The bishop of the Eastern Zone feels that "until now, the powerful have used every means to restrict the traditional channels of participation, including free elections at all levels, and squelched them in the economic area and in Brazil's traditional cancer, which is illiteracy and semilit-eracy."

Because of that, said the bishop, "I see the CEB's working in this postelection period to increase critical awareness concerning the rights of the people. I see them gathering momentum in their demands concerning specific problems. By delving deeply into faith and politics, the basic communities will, in a special way, be attentive to what the new government proposed before the elections, especially as regards people's participation. They are going to refine that democratic practice in the construction of freedom."

In refining the participation proposed by the Montoro government, the CEB's intend to seek out the politicians, invite them to debates, and make suggestions for solving the problems. Bishop Sandalo said that by acting in that way, "they will be building the true university of the people, whose schools have been suppressed. For a people who have been pushed to the wall by repression, the CEB's are creating room in which to make demands. Out of all this will burst forth real democracy, not something that has been bestowed, because until now, democracy has been a toy in the hands of the powerful."

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CSO: 3342/90

DIVISIONS WITHIN CHURCH CONCERN CNBB ASSEMBLY IN ITAICI

Private Sessions

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 83 p 12

[Text] Campinas--The 21st General Assembly of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB) was officially opened in Itaici yesterday, making clear the concern of the bishops about preventing divisions in the Church. Dom Luciano Jose Cabral Duarte, archbishop of Aracaju proposed--and received the unanimous approval of the 250 bishops present at the first day of the proceedings--that a longer period be given for the bishops' private sessions so that the divisions in the Church of Brazil may be studied. Dom Luciano did not want to speak about the subject with the press but sources outside the assembly asserted that the archbishop is greatly concerned about the lack of unity of the Brazilian episcopate.

The same sources believe that that is an attempt to prevent the political differences from emerging during the elections of the CNBB directorate, which will not occur until the last days of assembly, which will last until the end of next week. The divisions and the disputes between the progressive and conservative wings of the Church become quite clear in the periods of the election of the CNBB directorate, which this year decided on a prior selection of the candidates--those receiving the most votes in the regional assemblies--to form the slate, precisely to prevent the atmosphere of tension of other elections.

Yesterday, in the homily at the opening of the assembly, during the high mass, the president of the CNBB, Dom Ivo Lorscheiter, said that "in the center of our assembly, there must be the ideal of peace and reconciliation, which breaks down the walls and the barriers." He called on the bishops "to enter and persevere in this assembly with joy, with confidence and with an open heart," and he stressed that "difficult topics, elections or any other circumstances cannot shake or diminish the beauty of our togetherness and the sanctity of our communion."

During a press interview, one of the three bishops designated by the assembly to take care of the press, Dom Romeu Alberti, archbishop of Ribeirao Preto, declared that "the episcopate is not made up of robes but of people and, therefore, it has aspects that each one focuses on in a different way from

the others," but he disagreed that there is a lack of unity among the bishops. According to him, the concern in that regard "is more pastoral than political." On the other hand, the auxiliary bishop of Porto Alegre, Dom Urbano Allfayer, said that "there are divisions with regard to peripheral positions but not regarding the essential."

Yesterday, the assembly approved a complementary list of eight items that will be included in the main agenda, among them the drafting of a letter of support to the bishops of the United States, who are going to hold a meeting on peace in May. Another proposal was to charge a member of the conference with presenting a study on pastoral policies on the relationship between military chaplains and the CNBB. Yesterday, the bishops began the discussion of the rules of the CNBB general assembly but beginning today, they are scheduled to begin to consider the central document of the assembly, which deals with an assessment of the work of the organization during the past 4 years.

The CNBB will also draft a telegram of solidarity to Pope John Paul II in connection with the events that occurred during his trip to Central America, especially about the episode of the executions in Guatemala despite the Pope's pleas that there not be violence.

CNBB Document

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Mar 83 p 12

[Text] The document on the renewal of catechesis which the Brazilian episcopate is going to discuss at the CNBB general assembly in Itaici considers pluralism essential for political expression and warns of the risks of extremism and unilateralism.

Brasilia--"Participating with awareness and concretely in activities that are aimed at the common welfare is the way for each one to exercise his political function because omission helps to perpetuate injustice." That guidance is contained in the document, "Renewed catechesis, policies and content," drafted by Line Three of the CNBB (Catechesis), under the coordination of the bishop of Curitiba, Dom Albano Cavallin.

The document, already sent to all the bishops to be debated during the Itaici assembly between the 6th and 15th of next month, proposes changes in the manner of transmitting catechesis, observing that it cannot be reduced to the catechism for children.

"Faith must be present in all human activities and also as regards politics," says the document, which stresses the work of the Church in the sense of always defining with the greatest clarity the demands that flow from the moral order to the political order.

"The social, economic and political injustices, especially toward the new peoples of Latin America, depict a sin responsible for the destruction of human dignity. The renewal of man and consequently of society is going to

depend in the first place on the action of the spirit of God in us and for us. Laws and structures should be analyzed by the spirit in history. Although he is governed by economic and political processes, man is not submitted to them and he has the mission of humanizing them," states the document.

Work Without Exploitation

In analyzing work, the document says that man must face it not only as something useful but also worthy. And it makes an appeal for the building of a society that knows that work is made for man and not man for work. That is the formula to overcome any ideology that may want to make of work only an instrument of profit, which leads to the domination and exploitation of man himself.

The document emphasizes also that the liberation of the poor will not be done without building a more just society, because the root of the problem is social. In that regard, the Church supports the development of organizations to defend and fight for human rights because the poor gain awareness through them and assume their own liberation. United in neighborhood groups, Church groups, etc., Christians must seek to learn the social roots of the misfortunes that affect them, inquiring into the reasons for that situation of oppression and injustice, the problem of the multinationals, of capitalism and other important questions of the current situation, such as economics and politics.

"On this point, Christians must seek experts who can give them replies to their questions. If the pastors do not help the communities in that quest, if they seek only to hold them in the fear that they will be contaminated and manipulated, they will be responsible for their slow death, for the flight of the more aware ones, or for the loss of Christian originality in the liberating process."

Catechesis

According to the CNBB document, the historical situations and the authentically human aspirations are indispensable parts of the content of catechesis. For that reason, one cannot speak about God without speaking about man. The Christian citizen must have a critical awareness of the socio-economic, political, cultural and ideological situation in order to learn to read in them the signs of God.

The bishops state that the journey in the education of faith must last all one's life, and is not limited to certain times or places. Catechesis is a process of community, permanent, progressive, orderly, organic and systematic education of the faith. Its aim is the maturity of faith in a personal and community commitment to complete liberation that must occur in this world and culminate in the happy, eternal life.

The document also advises against overburdening children with doctrinal formulas and states that the best way is to teach the Gospel progressively so

that they will memorize the essentials of the experience of God on the basis of teachings transmitted through living the problems of each day.

With regard to the family, the document observes that the law of conjugal love is communion and participation and not domination. It adds that matrimony must be an exclusive, irrevocable and fruitful surrender to the person loved without the loss of one's own identity.

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CSO: 3342/97

INFLUENCE OF CHURCH ON MONTORO GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Mar 83 p 6

[Article by Ana Maria Tahan]

[Text] Sao Paulo--For the first time in 20 years, the church is going to be effectively present in the Sao Paulo state government. Church influence on Franco Montoro's administration is denied by both sides, but in selecting state secretaries for the social and security areas, the new governor has chosen men who have direct ties with various movements or who at least hold views in harmony with the line of action being pursued by the archdiocese headed by Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns.

A former member of the defunct Catholic University Youth (JUC) and a former municipal councilor representing the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), Montoro has brought former members of the JUC and the PDC into his state administration: Chopin Tavares de Lima as secretary of interior and former Minister Paulo de Tarso Santos as secretary of education. Along with them, he has also brought in people who began to be active in the church over the past decade, examples being Jose Carlos Dias, former chairman of the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission, as secretary of justice and Manoel Pedro Pimentel as the new secretary of security.

Relations between Paulo Arns and Governor Franco Montoro have always been good, although their contacts are not frequent. But while the cardinal denies any connection between the church and the new government, the effusiveness of his praise of Montoro's cabinet is unprecedented.

The state's future secretary of justice, who is currently a member of the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission, asserts that a direct channel of communication between the new state administration and the church exists, and he says that Governor Franco Montoro's concern to listen to Paulo Arns on matters and in areas where the church's activity has been most pronounced is undeniable. But he denies that there is any possibility of state interference in the affairs of the church or vice versa, especially since, in his opinion, it is also undeniable that the church will continue in its critical attitude toward the government, chiefly in connection with problems involving the well-being of the people.

When questioned concerning the church's relationship with the state government after Montoro takes office, Cardinal Archbishop Paulo Arns is careful to explain that the church does not intend to take the place of the people or to represent them politically, since it is its nature to "be a stimulus for participation and not to replace anybody." But he confirms the possibility of more direct contacts provided that the topic of discussion is how to promote the common good and "that which both the church and the state have in view, which is the condition of the human person and his rights."

Even before taking over as secretary of justice, Jose Carlos Dias sought out the church for a preliminary dialogue when, during a meeting in Sorocaba by the bishops of the archdiocese, he asked for help in implementing his plan for opening the community assistance centers (CAC's). It is his plan that those centers should be headed by an advisory council made up of leaders from basic communities in each region of Sao Paulo and that their objective should be to guide the inhabitants in such matters as illicit land subdivision, care of minors, food allowances, divorce, and so on.

Among the new secretaries, Carlos Alfredo Souza Queiroz, secretary for social advancement, is in favor with Luciano Mendes de Almeida, currently secretary general of the CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops] and auxiliary bishop of Sao Paulo, as well as the new chairwoman of FEBEM (State Child Welfare Foundation), Cecilia Zigliotto. The future secretary of labor, Almir Pazzianoto Pinto, is another individual favored by Luciano Mendes de Almeida.

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CSO: 3342/90

EDITORIAL NOTES PERILOUS DIVISIONISM IN CHURCH

PY151155 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Apr 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Divisionism in the Church"]

[Text] According to the archbishop of Aracaju, Sergipe state, Dom Luciano Cabral Duarte, the danger of a people's or parallel church in Brazil, following the model of Sandinist Catholicism, could be spreading due to the lack of action by the CNBB [National Brazilian Bishops Conference].

The Brazilian church would thus be heading toward a wide theological and disciplinary division. A portion would remain strictly obedient to the pope's teachings, and another would function as an instrument of international Marxism, deviating from the Catholic doctrine and disregarding the supreme authority of the Vatican.

The archbishop of Aracaju backed his charges before the CNBB plenum in Itaici [site of CNBB meetings in the state of Sao Paulo] with a series of statements by spokesmen for the people's church within the Brazilian clergy. In that context, the ecclesiastical base communities are defined as active expressions of Catholic dissent, trying to place the church's secondary social mission above its religious mission. This implies the adoption of political and ideological postures which have repeatedly been denounced by Pope John Paul II.

In the same CNBB meeting in which Dom Luciano Cabral Duarte voiced a warning and proposed to call upon the Holy Father in order to arrest the deepening of the internal conflict, Bishop Dom Aldo Gerna went so far as to say that the ecclesiastical community "cannot construe in absolute terms any minor papal utterance." The pope's infallibility and supreme magisterium would therefore be always subject to the critical analysis by those who listen to the Vatican's words or order. Dom Aldo Gerna insists: "We can disagree on marginal questions."

Nothing is so disquieting and distressing as witnessing this attempt at subordinating the Brazilian church to the ideas of the so-called Theology of Liberation and, more precisely, to the model which is already at work in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The simple idea of a "Latin American theology" with its own interpretations and specific positions is at loggerheads with the Catholic conscience brought up in the universal principles of the doctrine and faith. That the Sandinist line of the people's church should impose on us its theoretical and practical rules is a much more grievous proposition.

The country is living through difficult circumstances in which the position of the church bears a greater measure of responsibility not only in the aspect of faith but also in the social and moral aspects. The emergence of a man-centered tendency in opposition to a Christ-centered tendency by striking on activist chords that are sensitive to popular despair and violence is extremely undesirable for all those who are interested in the unity of our spiritual and religious underpinnings and in the solution of Brazil's current crisis.

CSO: 3342/101

NETO ADMITS 1983 TRADE SURPLUS MAY REACH ONLY \$5 BILLION

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Mar 83 p 17

[Report on interview with Delfim Neto, minister-chief of the Planning Secretariat of the Presidency, by Pery Cotta and Ricardo Bueno, in Sao Paulo on 11 March 1983]

[Text] Delfim Neto, minister-chief of the Planning Secretariat of the Presidency, admitted yesterday that this year's trade surplus may be \$5 billion instead of the \$6 billion agreed on with the IMF. He believes that if so, the country will be able to count on "additional financing of \$1 billion."

In an interview in Sao Paulo with reporters Pery Cotta and Ricardo Bueno of Radio JORNAL DO BRASIL, Delfim said that Brazil will need another 2 or 3 years before it can start growing again. The minister justified the 30-percent maxi-devaluation of the cruzeiro on 18 February by arguing that Brazilian exports were losing their ability to compete because of the devaluation of European currencies against the dollar.

Delfim Neto said he was confident that interest rates would fall and announced that the government is exerting pressure on the banks. He said that the rate is going to be reduced, either "through market forces or as a result of government efforts." The issuing of new ORTN's [Renegotiable Treasury Bonds] with exchange correction, a 5-year term, and an 8-percent interest rate "is a positive and conclusive affirmation" that there will not be another maxidevaluation.

Lastly, the minister again praised the passbook savings account as the best investment for small savers and said that especially since the measures adopted by the government yesterday, the purchase of dollars on the parallel market as an investment is nothing but "a big mistake."

Here are the main topics covered in the interview:

Passbook savings accounts: "For the small saver, the passbook savings account is the best investment. A passbook savings account is guaranteed to pay the inflation rate plus 6 percent in real terms, and it also has a number of tax advantages. And it is an extremely safe investment. I would say to the small saver that he should not be deceived by the advantages apparently offered by big speculators. They are currently being tempted with securities yielding

18, 19, or 20 percent in real terms. But what the small saver must realize is that there is a direct relationship between yield and the level of risk."

Interest rates: "One of the measures adopted yesterday (Thursday) was that of making monetary correction equal to the exchange correction, so that in practice, with the entrance of those new dollars that are out there, we should level off domestic and external interest rates at somewhere around 18 or 19 percent.... The confidence that I feel in that reduction is quite strong. It is going to happen, and that is why I say that people should not worry much about the yield from passbook savings accounts and alternative assets. In any case, in this area I am for the market in which everyone takes his chances.

"We are increasing our pressure (on the banking community) in those areas where the oligopoly that exists is going to have to adapt to the new reality.... The government has the obligation and the bankers have the duty to cooperate in reducing real interest rates, and interest is going to be reduced, as I have already said, either through market forces or as a result of government efforts."

Restrictions on dollar purchases and black-market reaction: "Speculation supported by tourism is extremely limited in scope.... I feel that it (the black market) is a very interesting market. In the first place, no one knows exactly who determines the rates. The rates are set by three or four extremely sharp characters who meet as a small group in Sao Paulo, and as another small group in Rio de Janeiro, and establish a rate around which it will float that time. During the day, depending on whether or not there are purchasers, a slight correction is made. I feel that we have stripped that market of its chief stimulus, which was the liquidity provided by the purchase of gold from any source by the Savings Bank. So that market is losing its vitality.... The withdrawal of the tax on financial transactions from the tourist dollar should also help. So I hope that it will be a less speculative market in the very near future. In any case, that mechanism is not of the slightest importance. In reality, it is made up of private individuals, and it causes trouble because it gives people the impression that the dollar is a great asset to be accumulated, and in my opinion, that is a mistake."

New issues of ORTN's with exchange correction, a 5-year term, and 8-percent interest as a guarantee that there will be no more maxidevaluations this year: "More than a guarantee, it is a positive and conclusive affirmation.... It was made clear yesterday (Thursday)--and it was already clear in our policy but was made explicit in the communique from the Central Bank and the Monetary Council--that over the next few months and possibly over the next 2 years, we will not correct the exchange rate because of external inflation."

Reason for the 30-percent maxidevaluation: "Beginning in mid-1981 and 1982, all the European currencies were devalued by an average of 29 percent. So we were losing our ability to compete in Europe. Why didn't we put it (the maxidevaluation) into effect earlier? Because we and those who know more about those markets than we do believed that the U.S. economy would recover and that as a result, the European currencies would recover a little more of their purchasing power. It was estimated that they would recover by 15 or 16 percent--half of what they had lost. That was what led to our original rule: they gain

by 16 percent and we lose 12 percent--the original 12 percent consisting of 1 percent per month--and thus everything should wind up in order. Well, when January arrived, it became obvious that American growth was slower than expected. That was when we decided to correct the value of the cruzeiro all at once, in the expectation that when the U.S. recovery did occur, we would be in a position to hitch a ride on the train. The train is there, and I feel that it is about to move--it is about to stir."

Trade balance surplus: "We have already achieved a surplus of \$330 million, which is still not much to someone who wants to reach \$6 billion, but the big effect of the reduction in the price of petroleum has not yet begun to show up, and the effect of the maxidevaluation will not really begin to make itself felt until April and May.... I have great hopes that we will end this first half of the year with monthly balances on the order of \$400 or \$500 million, showing that we are moving in the right direction. And then all this is going to disappear. People will realize that the system is working and that we will end the year with a surplus of between \$5 billion and \$6 billion. If we don't wind up with \$6 billion in January, we will have it in February.

"It is obvious that \$6 billion was the established figure. That is an objective that must be achieved, and I believe we will achieve it. But suppose we achieve \$5 billion. There will still be the internal dynamics themselves to show that the process is underway and that the only reason we did not achieve \$6 billion was that we lacked means. And in that situation, no one would refuse additional financing of \$1 billion."

Inflation and the international financial community: "They granted all that credit during the highest inflation ever known to history.... We have found a mechanism for living with that inflation, and they clearly know that we cannot do away with this inflation overnight. To eliminate it overnight, we would have to have a recession. That is not compatible with what we are doing, they appreciate that, and we are reaching those objectives in a politically open process, because they know that inflation is a problem of transfers among Brazilians."

Economic crisis and political relaxation: "No closed regime would be able to bear up under the existing crisis. Everyone is saying whatever he wants about the crisis that exists--reasonable things and unreasonable things. Everyone is able to criticize--it is a kind of catharsis--and some people are proposing the most absurd things. This is what I feel: that if it is no longer necessary, in the midst of the crisis, to explain the difficulties to society, imagine what it would be like in a politically closed regime. Political relaxation facilitates an understanding of the difficulties and facilitates implementation of the solutions, even though they require much more debate, much more explanation, and pertinacity.... This (the political relaxation) is an absolutely unshakable objective. There is no reason to think that there is going to be a retreat."

Criticisms from businessmen: "It is they themselves who have benefited from the subsidies granted throughout these years. It is clear that today they are sitting on a huge production apparatus that they cannot use. But when they blame the government, the fact is that the government bears only a small part of the

responsibility. They were the ones who made the investments with money that did not belong to them--it belonged to society, and the government transferred it to them with sizable subsidies. So they cannot come around today and evade their responsibility by saying that they had nothing to do with it."

Solution to the economic crisis: "There is certainly a solution.... It does not help to cry just because the world is in difficulty. It does not help to get all anxious just because we don't have any more foreign exchange with which to grow at a rate of 11 percent. We were growing at 11 percent because somebody out there was saving for us. They stopped saving, and now we have to generate those savings. The path is there before us: we will continue to expand agricultural production, find substitutes for petroleum production, export, and complete the government's projects, and if we are successful, then in 2 or 3 years Brazil will again be in a position to grow, because it has extraordinary internal dynamism."

Change in wage policy: "Whether we like it or not, and regardless of whether we feel that it is a pretence, it is absolutely true that real wages and employment are linked together.... One fact that we all regard as elementary is that real wages cannot rise much faster than the level of productivity without creating, on the one hand, inflationary tensions, and on the other--if those tensions are not resolved--unemployment. It was a conspicuous fact that the previous law was transferring income within the industrial sector itself--that is, all those earning more than 11.5 minimum wages were seeing their wages converge rapidly at 11.5 minimum wages. And all those earning less than 11.5 minimum wages were seeing their wages move toward 11.5 minimum wages. Simultaneously, the increases in productivity were something totally unconscionable, with the country actually experiencing negative productivity."

11798

CSO: 3342/90

CMN APPROVES MEASURES TO EXPAND 'LEASING-BACK' OPERATIONS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 83 p 31

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Meeting yesterday, the CMN [National Monetary Council] approved the joint motion of the finance minister and the president of the republic to permit state and private banks to conduct "leasing-back" operations (sale of equipment and subsequent lease of the same equipment from the purchaser), in recovery programs for companies in financial straits.

The CMN also decided to allow greater flexibility in the investment of mutual funds, permitting a broader composition and diversification of the portfolio, to attract small investors to this type of saving. The respective resolution, which will be announced today, will include establishment of a new information system to provide greater guidance to the investor.

The Monetary Council also resolved that the value of the Basic Participation Certificate (CPB) for eligibility in the financing program for commercial-export companies will be limited to 50 percent of the minimum capital for registration of said companies, equivalent to 57,000 ORTN [Readjustable National Treasury Bonds] or 204.5 million cruzeiros, or based on the company's liquid assets, whichever is less. The system of qualification by "performance," which uses the value of the company's exports in the prior year as a reference, will be maintained.

IOF

Finally, the CMN approved a new regulation for the IOF [Tax on Financial Operations], correcting operational problems of collection, registration, data collection and processing, adjusting the regulation to a more reasonable legal-tributary system and attending to other claims regarding specific tax cases, which the finance minister did not define. The new regulation, a document of almost 300 pages, will be published today.

Ratification

In addition to these three motions, the CMN approved six more motions resulting from "telephone conferences" in the last few days, as follows:

1. Setting a 12 billion-cruzeiro ceiling on financing for the 1983-1984 harvest, to be granted to the Bank of Amazonia for financial assistance to producers of rubber plants in the Amazon Region.
2. Establishing a Basic Cost Value (VBC) for upland wheat in the Central Brazilian region and in Bahia, for the 1983 harvest, varying from 50,700 cruzeiros per hectare for the productivity range of up to 1,200 kilograms per hectare, to 82,000 cruzeiros per hectare for the productivity range above 1,800 kilograms per hectare.
3. Fixing the base price for seed cotton, unshelled peanuts, dwarf and monkey beans, corn, castor beans and sorghum in the North/Northeast, Central-West, Southeast and South.
4. Authorizing suspension of IOF taxes on financing granted through PROEX [Export Promotion Fund].
5. Establishing VBC's for the financing of garlic and the second harvest of peanuts, beans, potatoes, sunflowers and sorghum for the northern, central-west, southeastern and southern regions.
5. Approving a base price of 5,086 cruzieros per 60-kg sack of domestic wheat, to go into effect on 1 April.

6362

CS0: 3342/96

VALPARAIBA EXPLOSIVES COMPANY TO MASS PRODUCE SUBMACHINEGUNS

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Mar 83 p 15

[Report by Ronaldo S. Olive]

[Text] Lorena, Sao Paulo--CEV (Valparaiba Explosives Company), a traditional manufacturer of explosives for commercial use (mining, oil prospecting, etc.) and military use (grenades, rockets, aviation bombs, smoke and tear gas bombs), is diversifying and expanding its line of products. By the end of 1983, the firm expects to market its first (portable) infantry weapon, a 9-mm submachinegun. The Army has already tested the prototype at the Marambaia Proving Ground in Rio de Janeiro.

Development

To accelerate the process of putting the new weapon into production, Valparaiba opted to start with an existing design. It chose the BSM/9 M3 submachinegun which had been developed (but which had not gone into production) by Bergom S/A, a Rio de Janeiro firm. Working since mid-1982, CEV technicians introduced some modifications to make the weapon safer, as well as easier and more economical to produce.

With the necessary modifications, a prototype was submitted to official Army approval tests. According to company manager Antonio Moura, the tests were successful. Valparaiba says the production line is already being toolled up and the first units should be available by the end of the year.

Characteristics

The Valparaiba submachinegun, the official designation for which is Mtr M 9 M1 - CEV, is a very simple and sturdy weapon, employing conventional manufacturing techniques. The main body (breech case) is a single tube which houses the barrel, bolt and two recoil springs, with the respective rods. In the lower front portion is a handle guard of insulating plastic material to protect the operator's hand from the normal heating of the barrel, especially during automatic fire. The clip, with thirty 9-mm Parabellum (Luger) cartridges, is metal and fits vertically into its guide immediately in front of the trigger guard. The metallic butt is of the telescopic type, but, optionally, the weapon may be offered with a more comfortable fixed plastic butt. With the butt retracted, the weapon is 50 centimeters long, reaching 70 centimeters with the butt extended. Fully loaded, the weapon weighs 3.7 kilograms.

Tests

O GLOBO tested one of the prototypes at the factory, although only 50 rounds were fired. No failure was noted in its functioning, either when fired intermittently or on automatic fire. The weapon is well-balanced and its weight is more than adequate to make the already modest recoil (kick) from the 9-mm ammunition even more gentle. Firing from the shoulder, the sighting apparatus (fixed at 100 meters) made aiming easy and the butt (within the limits of what one could expect from a retractable model) was comfortable enough. The extending and retracting operations are not very practical, however, requiring the use of both hands or perhaps more practice in handling on the part of the operator. Firing from the waist in short bursts, the weapon was easy to control. Its theoretical rate is 600 rounds per minute. The production-line model should also have a muzzle check (to further diminish the recoil), which was not on the model tested by O GLOBO.

The CEV submachinegun is of modular construction, making it easy to dismantle, without the use of any tool or instrument, for routine cleaning. Basic dismantling takes less than a minute and can be learned with a single demonstration.

6362

CSO: 3342/96

BRIEFS

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT--The president of Mauritania, Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidala, will visit Brazil at a yet-to-be established date. Plans are also underway for the visit to Brazil of Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere. All this falls within the future plans of Itamaraty's African policy. The most recent activities in this regard were Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro's visit to three west African countries (Gabon, the Ivory Coast, and Guinea-Bissau) and the visit to Brasilia of one of the most important Angolan authorities, Planning Minister Lopo de Nascimento. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Apr 83 p 5]

CHAVES TO RESUME POST--After spending 11 days on his Da Terra ranch, located 12 kilometers away from Tres Pontas, Vice President Aureliano Chaves arrived today in Belo Horizonte. Upon leaving the plane at Pampulha airport accompanied by his wife Vivi and his mother Lucia, Chaves said he would re-assume his post next Monday and noted that he would be acting president during President Figueiredo's visit to Mexico. [Begin Chaves recording] I will assume the presidency on Friday when the president leaves for Mexico. [end recording] While declining to give a press conference at the airport, Chaves promised to consider this possibility for the next few days. He said he was in good health and in good spirits. [Text] [PY200300 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Apr 83]

ANDREAZA ON CANDIDACY--Interior Minister Mario Andreaza has admitted in Porto Alegre that he could be a candidate for the presidency of the republic in 1986. He added, however, that he must be designated as a candidate by President Figueiredo. Stating that he would rather avoid any dispute, the interior minister declined to comment on the political campaign initiated by other candidates such as former Governors Marco Maciel and Paulo Maluf. [Text] [PY141250 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 14 Apr 83]

CNBB REELECTS LEADERS--Dom Ivo Lorscheider, bishop of Santa Maria, and Dom Luciano Mendes de Almeida, auxiliary bishop of Sao Paulo, have been reelected as president and secretary general, respectively, of the CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops]. Uberaba Archbishop Dom Benedito Ulhoa Vieira has been elected vice president of the CNBB. The reelection of Lorscheider and Mendes de Almeida have been interpreted by CNBB bishops and advisers as

a victory of the progressive over the conservative wing. [Text] [PY151521 Sao Paulo Radio Bandirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 83]

NEW EMFA CHIEF--Brig Gen Otomar de Souza Pinto has been appointed deputy chief of the Armed Forces General Staff Technological Affairs Commission [EMFA]. He replaces Brig Gen Ivo Seizas, who will be appointed to another post in Rio de Janeiro. [Text] [PY151521 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Apr 83 p 2]

NEW PDT LEADER--Deputy Carlos Franklin de Araujo, former national leader of the Revolutionary Armed Guard [VAR-Palmares] was elected last night as leader of the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] delegation in the Rio Grande do Sul Legislative Assembly. Deputy Joao Vicente Goulart, son of former President Joao Goulart, was elected deputy leader of the PDT delegation. [Text] [PY151521 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 7 Apr 83 p 4]

INCREASE IN GOLD RESERVES--Since May 1980 up until the end of February, 50 tons of gold have been incorporated into the national currency reserve. The majority of the gold came from the Serra Pelada goldfield, where the Federal Economic Bank bought 16.4 tons; from Itaituba, which produced 6.2 tons; and from CUMARU, which produced 3.5 tons. However, the present situation of the reserves has continued to be a well-kept secret by the Central Bank since August 1982. The last information available in this regard dates back to July when gold reserves totaled 80.4 tons according to the Central Bank. It was at that time that Brazil exchanged approximately 207,000 troy ounces (cr 6,000 kg) of international gold reserves for hard currency in order to improve the liquidity of the country. [Text] [PY151521 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Mar 83 p 3 C]

MONETARY READJUSTMENT RECORD--The government established a 9 percent monetary readjustment for April--the highest rate since the readjustment was established in Brazil in 1965. During the first 4 months of the year, the readjustment totaled 31.29 percent while the accumulated readjustment during the last 12 months until April totals 113.21 percent, which is a new record. [Text] [PY151521 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 24 Mar 83 p 1]

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH--The Industry and Commerce Ministry Industrial Development Council reported yesterday that the industrial sector registered a 0.12 percent growth in 1982 which is slightly more than the zero growth registered in 1981. The cause of this is lack of credit in view of the strict monetary policy implemented by the government. [Text] [PY151521 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 83 p 28]

NEW SUBMACHINEGUN--The Valparaiba Explosive Company (CEV) which traditionally manufactures explosives for commercial use (mining, oil prospecting, etc.) and for military use (grenades, bombs, etc.) hopes to place on the market its first 9 mm submachinegun by the end of the spring of 1983. [Text] [PY151521 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Mar 83 p 15]

SALE OF SHIPS--The Company Lloyd Brasileiro has entrusted London brokers with the sale of 16 ships of its fleet. The company decided to sell its ships

for two reasons: the crisis that the shipping industry is experiencing and its purchase of new ships. [Text] [PY151521 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Mar 83 p 22]

SHIPPING LINE--The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines has started its regular service. It will stop on 5 April in Santos and on 10 April in Sao Francisco do Sul. [Text] [PY151521 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Apr 83 p 15]

EXPORTS TO EAST EUROPE--The Alpargatas Company of Sao Paulo is about to close its first contract for the export of jeans to the Soviet market. Although the company is not disclosing any figures, sources say that any transaction with the Soviet Union will be important. This year, sales to Eastern Europe will represent 20 percent of Alpargatas exports. Until now exports to Eastern Europe have only represented 10 percent of the company's exports. However, company sources noted that contracts for the export of jeans and canvas-soled shoes to Bulgaria, exports of jeans to Czechoslovakia and the export of jeans and shoes to East Germany are expected to be finalized soon. [Text] [PY151521 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 29 Mar 83 p 19]

TAX ON CIGARETTES, LIQUOR--President Figueiredo has signed a decree establishing an increase of 1.16 percent in the tax on cigarettes. This tax readjustment will be put into effect in May. This new readjustment will also affect nonalcoholic beverages and beer. [Text] [PY151521 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 15 Apr 83]

AIR FORCE BASES IN AMAZON--Brasilia (O GLOBO)--The Air Force General Staff has initiated studies for the installation of two new air bases in the Amazon Region, aimed at expanding and more firmly establishing the presence of the Brazilian Air Force [FAB] in that area. Given the strategic importance of air power, it is essential to affirm its presence in the Amazon region, an acknowledged target of international interests, according to the strategists. The gradual creation of two new air bases will increase the manpower strength of the FAB in Amazonia. The draft bill to bring the strength up to present national security needs is already at Planalto Palace and will be forwarded to the National Congress. The bill provides for an increase of more than 8,000 noncommissioned officers over a period of 4 years. They will serve in the Amazon region and in Air Guard detachments, which will also be strengthened throughout the country. There are also provisions for an increase in superior officers and a post for a major general. The post will be filled by Gen Nelson Fish de Miranda, commander of the 7th Regional Air Command, recently created in Amazonia and headquartered in Manaus. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Mar 83 p 13] 6362

CSO: 3342/96

COMMUNIST PARTY'S TEITELBOIM CITED ON POPULAR DISCONTENT

PM171915 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 26 Mar 83 p 7

[Report by Jean George: "Hunger March in Santiago"]

[Text] In Santiago on Thursday evening demonstrators who had gathered at various points in the city converged downtown chanting "Bread, justice, work, freedom" and "The united people will never be defeated." Under the name of "hunger march" these processions had been organized in particular by the inhabitants of the capital's working class districts to protest unemployment, bad housing conditions and the repression. When they reached the downtown area the demonstrators clashed with the police who charged, throwing tear gas grenades and using water cannon. Many "hunger marchers" were injured, 250 of them were arrested. On Thursday morning eight devices had exploded in various parts of the capital. One of them cut off the water supply to the smart districts of the eastern sector.

Also on Thursday, in the early hours of the morning in Santiago and Valparaiso, Chile's biggest port, the police arrested Patricia Torres, Javier Suez, Javier Ruiz, Ramon Avello, Omar Rosales, and Ivan Rojas Quinteros, six young trade unionists representing the young people's rights commission, the group for people under house arrest and the national trade union coordinating body.

Those arrests were part of a vast play by the dictatorship to prevent at all costs the demonstration planned long in advance for this 24 March. Chilean Communist Party Politburo member Volodia Teitelboim was passing through Paris yesterday. In the "off-the-cuff" commentary which he gave us on these events, he pointed out: "The dictatorship knows that people taking to the streets spell its downfall."

This demonstration was not a spontaneous act. "The aim," the Chilean leader noted, "was to harmonize the population's great discontent with its public expression. The time when that discontent could be chewed over inside people's houses is over."

The preparations for this demonstration were not secret. The trade union organizations, the neighborhood coordinating bodies for the poor districts of the big cities, launched appeals. Chile, they stated in substance, is

experiencing the worst crisis of its history, famine has been institutionalized, poverty is the rule for millions of people, an arbitrary regime is destroying all rights and subjugating the legal authorities and it is necessary to take to the streets en masse to demand the right to work, education, health care, freedom of speech and the right of exiles to live in their homeland.

Pinochet's police carried out hundreds of preventive arrests. Some people talks of 1,200. [as printed] Ricardo Lecaros, chairman of the metalworkers' trade union was arrested on 18 March because 4,000 pamphlets calling on people to demonstrate on 24 were found in his trade union's headquarters. Santiago was placed in a state of siege but later on Thursday morning, thousands of pamphlets were dropped from the top of the big downtown apartment blocks. The watchword was: "Democracy."

"It was a very large demonstration," Volodia Teitelboim stressed. "There is a complete crisis in Chile. The dictatorship's whole policy has failed but the regime still has a base: "the support of the armed forces, at least in appearance, and it has one argument: force.

"For the first time since the 1973 coup d'etat it was not only the poor people who were condemning the dictatorship. With unemployment affecting 30 percent of the working population, all economic sectors are affected.

"The objective conditions for Pinochet's fall exist, but the opposition's response is not adequate, and this is the problem. Some 90 percent of the political forces are against the dictatorship but for the time being they are divided.

"The United States, which is the father of the regime, is not abandoning its son, but it is not sure that the latter will be able to survive. It is prepared to play other cards: a general, a conservative government against the left and especially anticommunist. The right and center in Chile are talking of hypothetical changes which all exclude the people and their struggle.

"Those who tried to isolate the communist party failed. We have always advocated the unity of all those, without exception and without exclusion, who are opposed to the dictatorship, irrespective of their past. We have always said that the people must struggle with all their potential as a factor unifying the whole opposition.

"The demonstration on 24 March is fully part of that policy. It was very united and nobody can claim a monopoly of it. It was not the first. It was preceded by the demonstrations on 19 August and 15 December 1982. Others will follow despite the repression. But international solidarity is very important against this repression."

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON DECADE OF MIR ACTIVITIES

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 2 Mar 83 p C3

[Text] Out of a total of 9,000 MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] members and 11,000 sympathizers or collaborators -- the latter from other countries -- who made up the banned organization in our country in 1973, there now remain only a few rank-and-file participants. Most of the major leaders are abroad.

This information was given to EL MERCURIO, along with an analysis completed by experts on counterrevolution in the policy and intelligence departments of the Ministry of Defense.

At a meeting held in one of the investigations personnel offices, newsmen were given data such as "from the list of 100 persons considered highly dangerous who were summoned to appear at army barracks, a list published between 12, 13 and 14 September 1973, at least 60 were MIR members.

"Of that total, 30 are alive." The rest, it is said, have sought asylum, sneaked out of the country, died in confrontations or been arrested. Among these is a large number of missing persons mistakenly assumed to be dead. It is certain that many of these fled the country. At the end of 1977, the MIR itself admitted in documents that less than 40 of its leaders were still in Chile, the spokesman said.

Top Leaders Eliminated

The experts explained that between 1973 and 1977, five DINA [National Intelligence Department] operations resulted in the disappearance of top MIR leaders and destroyed its inverted pyramid setup.

Party organization became vertical. Hernan Aguilo, head of the Revolutionary Workers Front, was the top man. Under him were eight levels, but the "head," Andres Pascal Allende, continued to issue orders from abroad and his followers were also financed from abroad.

Aguilo later asked to be replaced and taking his place was seminarist German Jesus Cortez Rodriguez. The latter, classified by security services as "highly capable and intellectual and very skillful compared with the rest of his comrades," died in January 1978.

Bombs

Beginning in 1978, orders were received from abroad. An initial requirement was the beginning of armed propaganda. Eight terrorists died making explosives. At the end of 1979, it was decided to return. Groups were formed abroad and trained militarily in Cuba, Libya, Algeria and East Germany. At that time, close to the beginning of 1980, Andres Pascal entered Chile. The exact place he arrived is not absolutely certain, but it was apparently Chacabuta. He had changed, looked different, liked the color white in clothing and favorite objects and wore gold metal-rimmed glasses.

In our country, the party organized and recovered an internal structure. Some members of the previous leadership who had been abroad returned and clashed with those still here. "Those who had remained in Chile had the merit of not having been detected by the security services and their knowledge of life underground had grown. They were also somewhat bothered by the redistribution of income obtained outside the country. Some of those arrested by security forces were apathetic and weak due to a lack of food. Their clothing exhibited poverty. They complained of having been abandoned."

Violence

In 1981, the leftists coming in from abroad formed the exclusive armed apparatus. "That is why actions were determined, violent and bloody. Terrorism took the lives of 14 persons and booty worth a total of \$30 million was obtained through armed robberies, attacks and crime.

"The reorganization of the MIR military apparatus made it strong and sometimes irrational in its acts. This also characterizes part of the extremist action in 1982. And yet, security organs tried to neutralize that force and managed to control it, specifically, thanks to intelligence plans and the support of residents of various communes," the source pointed out.

The source added that heads of household, housewives and mothers, factory and industrial workers and students, all residents of the Nuevo Amanecer, Lo Hermita, La Bandera, La Legua and La Pincoya settlements exhibited their fear of terrorism and told reserve corps and police officers of most plans and appeals for subversion which they witnessed.

Border Passes

The speakers said that citizens could rest easy due to the fact that several actions had recently been prevented. Terrorist groups that had gone to Vina del Mar at the end of January were broken up with the death and arrest of bomb makers Danilo Wilfredo Quezada Capetillo and Pedro Burgos Ibanez respectively. Both were carrying 40 kilograms of explosives.

It was confirmed that the alleged authors of the fire at the San Francisco de Valparaiso Church were the very same persons who only days previously had requested authorization to carry out a hunger strike in the courtyard to protest the detention of a number of terrorists, which authorization was emphatically denied by the parish priest.

On 4 February of this year, the left attacked and destroyed two railway motor coach cars traveling from Penablanca to Valparaiso. On 7 February, terrorist Fernando Eugenio Iribarren Gonzalez, who belonged to the Central Force structure of the MIR, died.

Finally, it was reported that security services have detected the advance of large guerrilla groups trained in Cuba toward Chilean borders. These terrorists receive eight months of training on the island and are organized into contingents made up of 30 to 40 men.

"The country's defense must not only be found in the capital. It must also extend throughout the country and now, due to curious unexpected events, reach the regional centers of operation of the terrorists, who are trying to increase the ranks of its supporters through infiltration across the borders from neighboring countries," the sources concluded.

11,464

CSO: 3348/256

BRIEFS

EXPORT EARNINGS FOR 1982--Foreign Ministry Economic Affairs Director Andres Concha stated during a meeting of the U.S.-Chilean trade chamber that the earnings of the export sector decreased by \$2 billion during 1982 due to the decrease in the price of Chilean exports and to the increase in interest rates and in the foreign debt figure. [Text] [PY211240 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Apr 83 PY]

MARCH INFLATION RATE--According to the Chilean Statistics Institute, the inflation rate in Chile increased 1.9 percent during the month of March. With this increase the accumulated inflation rate during 1983 amounts to 6.8 percent. [PY110118 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 83 PY]

DONATION TO COLOMBIA--During a symbolic ceremony held at the Arturo Merino Airport, the Chilean Government made a donation of 50 tents and 500 blankets to the Colombian Government to aid those affected by the earthquake in Popayan. Colombian ambassador Luis Gonzalez Barros, recently-appointed Chilean ambassador to Colombia Brig Gen Carlos Morales and the head of the emergency department, Brig Gen (Luis Onofre) attended the ceremony. [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Apr 83 PY]

FOREIGN DEBT INCREASE FORECASTED--PRODEN [National Development Project], a group which opposes President Pinochet's military regime, today warned that Chile's foreign debt will amount to \$21 billion this year and added that the people will have to bear the heavy burden of paying it off for many decades. Jorge Lavanderos, a former Christian Democratic parliamentarian, stated that this amount will include short, medium and long-term loans as well as the new amounts of money which will be obtained by means of the renegotiation in which over 600 banks have been asked to participate. Lavanderos said that the government mistakes which have plunged the country into this serious and unprecedented situation will be paid by the next generation and a half of Chileans. The dissident politician said that this was a general collapse, a sorrowful awakening from the dream created by government slogans which spoke of a country that was getting along very well and that would be better still in the future. PRODEN which is made up of center, right and moderate left-wing politicians, has announced that it will continue with its plea that former Finance and Economy Minister Rolf Luders--whom PRODEN believes

to be one of the main culprits in Chile's severe collapse--be brought to trial. In March the organization preferred constitutional charges against Luderu but the Military Junta, which plays the role of the legislative branch, ruled that it had no jurisdiction over the executive branch and rejected the plea without further discussion. [Text] [PY121553 Paris AFP in Spanish 1836 GMT 11 Apr 83]

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IN ECUADOR--Deputy Foreign Minister Sergio Covarrubias left for Ecuador today where he will preside over the Chilean delegation to the sixth meeting of the joint Chilean-Ecuadorean coordinating commission. During the meeting, which will be held from 18 to 21 April in Quito, Ecuador, the delegations will discuss bilateral economic and trade issues with the objective of increasing trade between the two countries. Regarding financing matters, the delegations will discuss the reciprocal credit granted by the respective central banks within LAIA [Latin American Integration Association]. Moreover, they will discuss issues pertaining to transportation and telecommunications. Regarding the first, they will implement transportation measures regulating traffic between the two countries. As for scientific and technological cooperation, the delegations will discuss the technical assistance that is requested and offered by the two nations and new programs that are submitted. They will also study the possibility of signing complementary agreements. Regarding culture, they will study implementation of a cultural agreement and a cultural exchange program for the 1983-84 period. Moreover, they will also discuss issues pertaining to tourism, health and any other issue that may be of interest to the two countries. [Text] [PY170011 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Apr 83]

NAVY IN UNITAS MANEUVERS--Santiago, 11 Apr (AFP)--It was reported today that the Chilean Navy will participate in the coming Unitas maneuvers together with U.S. warships. The maneuvers are due to take place between August and September this year. High-level Chilean Navy sources have indicated that the decision to participate in the joint maneuvers has been conveyed to the U.S. Navy and that next week high-ranking officers of the two navies will meet in Valparaiso to study the tasks that will be performed at sea. This meeting will serve to establish the various phases, the nature of the exercises and the ports where the ships will dock during the maneuvers. The number of ships that will participate in the maneuvers is not known yet. [Excerpt] [PY121532 Paris AFP in Spanish 0319 GMT 12 Apr 83]

RAILROAD SHORTAGE REPORTED--Two bombs exploded Sunday along the railroad between the Chilean capital of Santiago and the city of San Antonio. The important railroad was affected. The police deactivated a third bomb. The bombs exploded only 72 hours after several packs of dynamite exploded along the railroad between Santiago and Valparaiso. The explosions caused property damage and disrupted traffic. [Excerpt] [PA191930 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Apr 83]

EXTRADITION NOT REQUESTED BY FRG--Santiago, 11 Apr (AFP)--The Chilean Foreign Ministry denied today that the FRG had requested the extradition of former Nazi leader Walter Rauff, who is accused of being the creator of the death trucks. Rauff lives here in Santiago. Ehnran Rios, director of the Foreign Ministry Legal Department, stated that any petition in this regard must be presented to this department, and so far he is not aware of any petition received. Rauff has lived with his family in the comfortable neighborhood of Las Condes in the eastern sector of this capital, according to local press reports. [Excerpts] [PY121600 Paris AFP in Spanish 0344 GMT 12 Apr 83]

NEW CHIEF OF STAFF--Talcahuano--At a ceremony held at the Los Heroes plaza yesterday, Capt Jorge Ardiles Rojas was sworn in as the new chief of staff of the 2d Naval Zone. Various officials attended the ceremony, at which Capt Jorge Acuna acted as interventor. The new chief of staff replaces Raul Ganga Salazar, an officer from the same graduating class. [Text] [Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 1 Mar 83 p 11] 11,464

CHILE EXPORTS ANTARCTIC KRILL--Santiago de Chile, 1 Mar (EFE)--Some 1,300 tons of Antarctic krill, considered to be the food of the future, were shipped by Chile to the EEC yesterday. The shipment, consisting of 1,100 tons of frozen krill and 200 tons of krill flour, was brought from factory ships operating in the Chilean Antarctic Sea and transferred to the British merchant ship "Carmania," which would carry it to Europe. Krill is a tiny crustacean that is the traditional food of whales and penguins. Scientists believe it will be mankind's most important food in the years to come because of its enormous quantity of protein. Given its name by the Norwegians, in whose tongue it means "very clear prawn," its scientific name is Euphasia superba. On the average, krill is 6 centimeters long and it weighs between 1 and 2 grams, but the nutritive value is enormous because it is 56 percent protein and 12 percent fat and also contains vitamins. With the gradual disappearance of cetaceans, the life expectancy of krill increased spectacularly and there are now banks where they can weigh up to several thousand tons. According to studies done by the United States, Australia, the Soviet Union, Japan and Chile, it is thought that around the entire Antarctic territory, a floating biomass of krill may be found weighing over 5 billion tons. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 2 Mar 83 p B1] 11,464

CSO: 3348/256

PASTORA SAID TO BE PROTECTED BY INFLUENTIAL OFFICIALS

PA181748 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Apr 83 p 21a

[By Jose Melendez, EXCELSIOR correspondent]

[Text] San Jose, 15 Apr--Eden Pastora Gomez, "Commander Cero" of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, has the protection of influential sectors of the Costa Rican Government which, without the knowledge of President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez, compromise Costa Rica's neutrality on international conflicts, sources of the Central American secret services have reported here.

An investigation that this correspondent undertook regarding the illegal movements of Pastora Gomez has found that despite President Monge Alvarez' opposition to any police act that could be interpreted as aiding or abetting the anti-Sandinists, important members of the Interior Ministry and the police cooperate with the counterrevolution and especially with Pastora. They cooperate behind the president's back, the sources added.

This covert aid for "Commander Cero" led a Costa Rican deputy to charge on Wednesday that Deputy Interior Minister Enrique Chacon has approved a plan to force all undocumented Nicaraguans whom immigration officials find in the northern zone on the border with Nicaragua to join the counterrevolution. The immigration office falls under the control of Chacon.

Deputy Ricardo Rodriguez, deputy minister of transportation from 1978 to 1982, said: "We have received confidential reports, some from high-ranking government officials, that the Interior Ministry, through its posts in the country's border zone, is arresting undocumented Nicaraguans and forcing them to join the counterrevolutionary groups."

Deep Concern

"These are very serious reports," Rodriguez, who is an independent deputy, said, "that have caused deep concern. The most serious aspect is that these actions are being carried out with the indulgence of Deputy Interior Minister Enrique Chacon. Unfortunately this indicates that some Costa Rican Government officials are involved in the counterrevolutionary struggle. Those actions endanger peace in Costa Rica and Central America."

Rodriguez' charges were made at the time that this correspondent was investigating the Interior Ministry's aid to Pastora Gomez. That investigation has established the following:

Pastora got the Costa Rican Government to report to the Sandinists during a high-ranking meeting with the Nicaraguan Government on 4 April that he had left Costa Rica for Mexico on 28 March.

Immigration authorities told Costa Rica's Radio Monumental and Channel 7 that this was false because Pastora's departure from any airport or border post had not been legally registered.

"Commander Cero" spent several days in Puerto Limon, on Costa Rica's Atlantic coast. He lived in the house of Oscar Zavala, former Nicaraguan consul in Costa Rica during the Somoquist regime. He was in Panama for 2 days before arriving in Zavala's house.

Today, in a proclamation dated 8 April that Pastora said he wrote in "The Nicaraguan mountains," Pastora says that he has joined the armed counter-revolutionary struggle and that he has been in Nicaragua since that date. But investigations place him in Zavala's house in Limon until at least 13 April.

That is where Pastora took refuge: in the house of a man who is recruiting people for the groups of "Commander Cero." This man uses the cover of an electrician; he owns a clandestine radio station and an outboard motor boat which he uses to transport food and ammunition to the camps that Pastora has in the Barra Colorado area on the border with Nicaragua and with easy sea access from Limon.

"El Negro" Chamorro

The whereabouts of Fernando "El Negro" Chamorro have also been discovered: he is in the Puerto Limon house of Alejandro Martinez Saenz. In 1959 Martinez Saenz participated in the creation of the Sandino Revolutionary Front (FRS) which Pastora seized a year ago and then broke up.

In 1979 during the Sandinist insurrection against Somoza Martinez Saenz formed the "Marino" brigade and seized the town of Cardenas, near the border with Costa Rica. His operation was not supported by the FSLN.

Martinez' action is remembered today. The FSLN did not support it because his troops were made up of FSLN deserters involved in smuggling cattle to Costa Rica and in criminal actions against Costa Ricans.

Today, Pastora and Chamorro, once neighbors in Puerto Limon and now united with the former Somoquist guardsmen by the umbilical cord that is the CIA and fightint to become "president of Nicaragua," struggle to avoid going back on their promises. Both agree that the nine commanders must be "kicked out" of Nicaragua.

The CIA has held several secret meetings with Pastora to negotiate his joining the other counterrevolutionary forces: those of Chamorro and the former Somoza guardsmen, as explained in the reports received here.

The Interior Ministry Action

The Rural Guard, an organ of the Interior Ministry received reports about important counterrevolutionary activities underway on a farm in Las Nubes de Coronado, northeast of the capital.

The Rural Guard raided the farm owned by Nicaraguan Eufemia Pena, whom Pastora often visited. The police found a mobile transmitting station mounted on a large truck which was taken to various areas of Costa Rica.

According to the agents who participated in the investigation, that mobile station could be the Voice of Sandino which rails against the Sandinist government "from somewhere in Nicaragua" and which claims that "the fall of the nine commanders is near."

From that same radio equipment, Pastora has announced that he will enter Nicaragua to join the forces fighting against the Sandinists.

However, after being confiscated by the Rural Guard, the radio station stopped being clandestine because the Interior Ministry returned it to its "owners," but with the legal documents to operate in Costa Rica.

When the Costa Rican press learned of the incident, it tried to take at least some photos of the equipment but this was not possible because it had already been returned.

A few days later, however, agents of the Public Security Ministry, an official organ opposed to giving aid to any kind of the counterrevolutionary groups, again searched Eufemia Pena's farm.

They were surprised to find a radio station with a legal permit to operate, issued by the Radio Control Office, another Interior Ministry organ.

All these orders and counterorders have disturbed some Rural Guard members who have even been ordered to keep silent so the press may not learn of their attempts to comply with President Monge's instructions: Costa Rica is and must continue to be neutral.

The Central American secret services are aware of the existence of a man who could be described as being used by Chacon to "cover" all the counterrevolutionary activities in this country.

That man is Federico Garcia, Interior Ministry adviser. Sandinist spies have identified him as being a collaborator of the counterrevolutionaries.

Garcia has been entrusted with many tasks to keep many of the activities of the rural guardsmen from being known. When a member of his police body

captures a "counterrevolutionary" in possession of weapons or under suspicious conditions, he is ordered to leave him alone and "not to meddle in these things."

In one of the few incidents published here, the local papers reported a week ago that a Costa Rican helicopter and its pilots had landed suspiciously in the Nicaraguan border sector, but were seen by residents who reported the incident to the National Guard.

When guardsmen arrived at the place where the helicopter had landed, they told the residents of the area not to say anything to the press, according to the reports. Several boxes of weapons and ammunitions were found near the helicopter.

Other investigations indicated that Pastora owned the helicopter and that one of the two pilots, Mariano Montealegre, had deserted from the Sandinist army in July 1982 after which he publicly joined the Pastora group.

But from Deputy Minister Chacon's viewpoint, publishing details of the helicopter incident meant "obstructing the police investigation of the strange activities of communist groups in the area. The information should not have been publicized," the official regretted.

So far there have been no clear details of the whereabouts of the pilots and the helicopter or of the results of the investigation.

The Official Story and the Answer

To Enrique Chacon, all these claims are merely inventions to which he pays no attention.

Concerning the statement of Deputy Rodriguez, the deputy minister replied: "It is laughable. It is the most ridiculous thing I have heard in all my life. I believe that an official or a deputy should be responsible enough to make charges based on specific facts. If he has the facts, let him go ahead with the charges."

Chacon added: "He should not behave like a gossipy old woman. I sincerely do not care to talk at all about what this gentleman has said; that is, I have no respect for him."

Two weeks ago, however, Interior Minister Alfonso Carro told Borge that "seeing that there is war in Nicaragua, and in order not to get involved, Costa Rica has politely asked Pastora to leave the country."

Carro explained that he had met with Pastora, to whom he explained that "this request did not mean he could not return to Costa Rica. Pastora calmly listened to our request."

For all the above, the Central American secret services affirm that behind President Monge's back and having the protection of influential sectors of

the Costa Rican Government, Eden Pastora and his groups are jeopardizing Costa Rica's neutrality in the Central American conflicts. They feel that "Comandante Cero" is endangering Costa Rica's security.

And about the presence of Pastora in Costa Rica, there were other answers from the ministry authorities.

They were reminded that on 4 April Minister Alfonso Carro personally handed a document to Commander Tomas Borge, Nicaraguan Interior Minister, confirming Pastora's official departure to Mexico on 28 March. It was added, however, that according to Immigration, that departure never took place "legally."

CSO: 3248/673

MONGE CALLS FOR JOINT ECONOMIC ACTION BY LATIN AMERICA

PA191621 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] In his response to a letter from Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado, President Luis Alberto Monge has analyzed Costa Rica's economic situation and its process of recovery during the last 10 months.

As you know, my country is undergoing a serious crisis. When I took office as president of the republic in May 1982 the situation was desperate. Now, 10 months later, we have managed to stem the accelerated process of economic deterioration and are beginning a slow recovery of the bases for production, says Monge. Although we still have to cover much ground, we expect inflation to be under control and the country to be at a point of positive equilibrium by 1984, the president adds in his letter.

Deeply delving into the aspects that are most strongly affecting the Central American countries and particularly Costa Rica, President Monge noted that their serious lack of foreign exchange cripples the operation of their economic system and their relations with third parties. He also notes that the absence of compensatory financial support where there is a drop in their income from exports of basic products, the serious difficulties encountered in regard to negotiating terms and the subsequent compliance with agreements with the IMF are affecting the Central American countries' process of development.

President Monge tells his Ecuadorean colleague that joint action is urgently required at a Latin American level. He calls for the establishment of a joint Latin American plan of action which, among other efforts, should contemplate joint action in three basic fields. It is necessary to apply and reorient international financing in favor of the developing countries thus allowing the renegotiation of their foreign debt in the most favorable terms possible, establishing common strategies vis-a-vis the international financial community. Finally, it is necessary to establish international financing mechanisms to help these countries when their export income drops due to conditions on the world market.

CSO: 3248/673

BRIEFS

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN ROMANIA--A Costa Rican parliamentary delegation has met in Bucharest with Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei and Foreign Trade Minister Vasile Pungan. The deputies, presided over by Hernan Garron (National Liberation Party-San Jose), traveled with Presidential Palace and Congress approvals. The other members of the delegation are Victor Hugo Alfaro (National Liberation Party-Alajuela), Miguel Angel Guillen (National Liberation Party-Alajuela), Ricardo Rodriguez (Independent Party-Alajuela) and Rodolfo Brenes (Unity Party-Guanacaste). According to the Romanian news agency AGERPRESS, the meeting was to discuss the good relations between the two countries and the possibility of broadening these relations. Likewise, they exchanged viewpoints concerning international problems and emphasized their mutual willingness to exert themselves in favor of a world climate of peace and collaboration, the news agency added. [Text] [PA120007 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 3 Apr 83 p 8A]

CSO: 3248/673

REAGAN'S CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY CRITICIZED

FL152010 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 15 Apr 83

[International commentary by Jose Fernandez Vilela of the Revista de la Manana program staff and Javier Rodriguez of PRENSA LATINA]

[Excerpts] [Fernandez Vilela] Good morning, dear television viewers.

There is no doubt that President Ronald Reagan has suffered several political defeats recently in the U.S. Congress, which day by day is paying more attention to the White House intervention policy in Central America and also to the problems of the armament race. There are some facts regarding Central America, which very clearly show the confrontation between the president and the U.S. Congress, and which we would like to emphasize.

Last Tuesday, for example, the Senate Subcommittee for Foreign Relations rejected a Reagan administration request for additional funds amounting to 50 million pesos [as heard] to be offered to the Salvadoran regime. On the same day, that same subcommittee decided to reduce the aid of \$86 million, already programmed for aid to El Salvador in 1984, to \$50 million.

Also on the same day, the subcommittee expressly prohibited any aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups which have invaded the country from Honduras, unless, the resolution says, such aid be specifically approved by both houses of the Congress, that is, the subcommittee clearly demonstrates its opposition to President Reagan's policy and categorically prohibits any type of dirty operations.

These resolutions, of course, only have a moral force and they will not annul Reagan's Central American policy; nevertheless they mark a big political defeat for the U.S. president, there is no doubt about that.

[Rodriguez] Yes, Vilela, I believe there is a growing disagreement in Congress, or at least in a rather large sector of the U.S. Congress, with the foreign policy as conducted by President Ronald Reagan's administration. This disagreement has become accentuated because of the growing tensions in sensitive regions of the world, more recently the Central American and Caribbean area. There is real alarm among large sectors of the U.S. Congress, an alarm which is expressed publicly in one form or another against the U.S. bellicose policy which may lead to a general conflagration in the Central American and Caribbean area, as

has been denounced several times. We all know about the stubborn position of the United States regarding the negotiation of political solutions to the conflicts existing in the area, as well as its attitude of interference with the affairs of El Salvador and, more recently, its publicly admitted, direct and close connection with the aggression against Nicaragua. These factors have converted the Central American and Caribbean area into a kind of powder magazine with a burning fuse.

It is natural that there should be a growing number of congressmen who oppose a continuing support of this policy which might lead to a general conflagration.

In addition to what you have said we should mention that a delegation of U.S. congressmen, who recently visited Managua and various parts of Nicaragua as well, stated on their return to the United States that they have proof of direct U.S. participation in the aggression against Nicaragua, of CIA participation and of the aid to the counterrevolutionary groups and to groups of former Somoza officers and soldiers who are now in the interior of the country carrying out armed operations against the Nicaraguan Government.

[Fernandez Vilela] Apparently, Javier, there is great concern among all U.S. citizens that the United States should not intervene in Central America. This has to do with the so-called Vietnam syndrom, because there is a very fresh picture in the minds of U.S. citizens of the consequences for the U.S. people of the war waged against the Vietnamese people. They do not want that to be repeated, much less near their own borders. This of course has in influence on Congress.

[Rodriguez] It is also interesting to see, Vilela, the public reaction of President Reagan himself to this situation. Yesterday Reagan made some short statements during 10 minutes to the newsmen at the White House who pestered him with questions about the protests and repudiation of his policy toward Nicaragua and specifically regarding the reports on U.S. participation in counterrevolutionary actions in Nicaragua. It is interesting to point out that the U.S. president stated that everything will be all right, that the things the United States was doing there was right and that there was no breaking whatever of the laws but only an attempt to interrupt the military aid that Nicaragua is allegedly giving to the Salvadoran revolutionaries. He made a full justification of all the U.S. position of support of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, the economic and military support and the direct participation in the threats against Nicaragua. He simply stated all was very well, indeed, and he was rather in a bad temper.

This is in fact a demonstration of how the U.S. Government, or its president in this case, publicly admits ignorance of the laws of its own country when it is a question of defending quite sordid and obscure interests of the government itself. The foreign policy of the current U.S. Government is based on the argument that the need to participate in the efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution, by ever more direct intervention in El Salvador to thwart the revolutionary struggle there, is a question of U.S. internal security. It voices the very dangerous thesis that small countries like Nicaragua and El Salvador are a danger to the internal security of the United States, and with this argument the U.S. laws are broken and there is participation in those totally illegal activities. And the U.S. president admits it publicly and says [that] everything is just fine, as he said in the press conference today.

NICARAGUAN PEACE COMMITTEE MEMBER INTERVIEWED

PA172205 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Pedro Martinez Pirez interview in Havana with Hugo Mejia, member of the Nicaraguan Peace Committee Secretariat and Nicaraguan delegate to the seminar on the "Role of the Military-Industrial Complex in the Preparation of a Nuclear War Against the Peace, Sovereignty and Development of the Peoples," being held at the Havana Convention Center; no date given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] First of all, Mejia, I would like your opinion regarding the importance that this meeting has for the Nicaraguan cause of self-determination, independence and sovereignty.

[Answer] For us, and especially at this time, this is an extremely important event. It allows an awareness and understanding of the causes and basis of the U.S. warmongering policy, and allows further development of international solidarity with the struggle of the Latin American peoples, especially the Central American peoples. Events such as this one, at this level and scientific seriousness, are precisely the ones that contribute greatly to this international solidarity for the just cause of all the peoples.

[Question] Mejia, we are celebrating another Playa Giron anniversary. It was a military defeat for the United States in Latin America. It is said that Nicaragua is facing a new Playa Giron. I would like your opinion regarding this, and on the historical significance of the Cuban victory at Playa Giron.

[Answer] Right. The levels of infiltration by the counterrevolutionary forces or task forces formed by what is left of the National Guard are at this time acquiring the proportions of a growing invasion of Nicaraguan territory. Aside from revealing the complete U.S. plan of aggression, these actions reflect those that imperialism has carried out in the past, such as at Playa Giron. In the same way imperialism was defeated at Playa Giron it will be defeated by the Nicaraguan people and all the peoples who defend the cause of self-determination. The U.S. is repeating its blunder, and the victory of the peoples that struggle for their own destiny will also be repeated.

[Question] At the same time that the Nicaraguan people are struggling to protect their sovereignty, they keep reiterating their will for peace. However, the United States apparently is bent on war. What is your opinion regarding

this U.S. stand, and that of its main accomplice in Central America, Honduras.

[Answer] The obdurate U.S. policy is a warmongering policy that threatens world peace, and it is the peoples who are struggling for their self-determination, the ones who are fighting for world peace and who form one body, one group, at the world level, who will tie the hands of imperialism to stop the constant threats and aggression against the peoples that are carried out by the imperialists with their colonial and neocolonial eagerness to dominate, not only politically but militarily as well.

[Martínez Pírez] Thank you Hugo Mejía, member of the Nicaraguan Peace Committee Secretariat.

CSO: 3248/685

REPORT ON SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING

PA111435 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] The 16th Socialist International congress ended in the Portuguese city of Albufeira with the reelection of former German Chancellor Willy Brandt as president. Around 300 delegates from nearly 80 countries participated.

The problems of peace and disarmament, the world's economic crisis, detente and U.S. interference in Central America were the main topics covered in the congress' final document. During the closing event, many speakers criticized the U.S. policy of interventionism in Central America with the complicity of the Honduran regime, and asserted that the conflict represents a serious threat for world peace.

Dominican Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, president of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, affirmed that Central America marks the lowest point in the policy followed by Ronald Reagan's government.

Manuel Guillermo Ungo, leader of the Salvadoran FDR, termed blundering and blind Washington's policy of destabilizing democracies in Latin America and giving every support to military dictatorships, thus creating crises and conflicts.

The FSLN delegation presided over by Bayardo Arce, denounced in Algarve the invasion organized by the United States against Nicaraguan territory with the complicity of the Honduran armed forces.

Likewise, the New Jewel Party of Grenada condemned U.S. plans of aggression against that Caribbean nation. It emphasized that the accusations that Grenada represents a danger to U.S. security are completely false.

The FMLN accused the U.S. Government of increasing the danger of war in Central America through its increasing intervention in the zone. Salvadoran guerrilla leader Salvador Samayoa delivered a speech at the Socialist International congress in Algarve, and said that the Central American dictatorships would not be able to stand the people's thrust for a single day, were it not for U.S. support. Samayoa emphasized that an even greater U.S. intervention in his country would represent a regionalization of the conflict.

He also stressed that the war in El Salvador will not be won by imperialism and its lackeys, because they defend an unjust cause and oppose a people.

In another speech, Sandinist leader Bayardo Arce--who is also attending the Socialist International congress--denounced the military invasion against Nicaragua from Honduran territory, which has the White House's full support. Arce reiterated the FSLN members' willingness to start a dialogue with Washington and the Honduran Government. According to Arce, Honduras has in its territory more than 17 bases of former Somozists, who are constantly infiltrating Nicaragua.

CSO: 3248/687

FIDEL CASTRO CLOSES NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSEMBLY

FL181835 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last Saturday closed the second National Medical Sciences Assembly which met for 2 days at the Karl Marx auditorium in Havana.

In the final work session, participants reviewed the work of the students on their sixth year of medical studies and of the professors in this discipline who are working in the fraternal country of Nicaragua. Regarding the latter, (Rene Darce), Nicaraguan deputy minister of health, expressed his gratitude for Cuba's internationalist assistance and said:

[Begin (Darce) recording] The presence in our fatherland of [Cuban] teachers and students makes an impact which modifies and accelerates the organization of our medical personnel who are so necessary for providing the services our people deserve and have a right to receive as a basic achievement of our revolution. [End recording]

Shortly before the closing of the medical event, (Juan Vera), rector of Havana's Institute of Medical Sciences [Instituto de Ciencias Medicas de la Havana], read the assembly's final declaration which expressed the commitments of our doctors, professors and students.

[Begin (Vera) recording] We, the professors and students of medical sciences of Cuba, meeting in this assembly on the day which coincides with 22d anniversary of the proclamation of the socialist nature of our revolution--the day when our people swore with arms raised high to defend the revolution to the last drop of blood--reiterate our determination: to remain faithful to the example provided by our revolution, the party and our commander in chief; to be bearers of his universally significant message: to struggle; to struggle for the welfare of the people; to struggle for peace; to struggle for health; to struggle for our undeniable right to survive; to be frontline fighters in waging the most colossal, just, honorable and necessary battle for the survival and future of our peoples; and that if in the present world situation, imperialism--with its desperate arms race and its hysterical aggressiveness--should attempt to do away with historic achievements of the revolution, as it did 22 years ago, we will again stand with arms raised high together with each man, woman and child, ready to defend the sacred soil of our fatherland. [End recording]

CSO: 3248/685

BRIEFS

VILAM ESPIN IN PRAGUE--Vilma Espin, alternate member of the party Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, is attending a Prague meeting dedicated to peace and disarmament in preparation for a conference on those topics slated to be held in Czechoslovakia next June. The Prague meeting of leaders of women's organizations from socialist countries will also review the results achieved in the U.N.'s decade of the women. [Text] [FL131410 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 83]

EDUCATION AGREEMENT WITH ANGOLA--Luanda--Angolan and Cuban representatives have signed a new agreement on cooperation in the educational sector in the Angolan capital. The agreement stipulates the undertaking of analytical studies on primary education level by specialists from the two countries. [Text] [FL121350 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Apr 83]

GROWTH OF CONCRETE INDUSTRY--Politburo members Osvaldo Dorticos and Jorge Risquet have presided at the closing session of the first national meeting of the concrete industry, which was held at the Jose Antonio Echeverria Polytechnic Institute of higher education in this capital with the participation of representatives of producing, consumer and exporting organizations and leaders of the National Construction Workers Union. The closing remarks were made by Jose Lopez Moreno, member of the party's Central Committee and construction minister. In his speech, he noted that the priority assigned by the government to the production of cement for use in construction plans has made the progress of that branch possible, because it has attained a substantial development since the triumph of the revolution. He said the continued growth of cement production is sufficient to supply internal consumption and export large quantities of a product of competitive quality abroad. [Text] [FL091331 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 83]

DELEGATION VISITS PARIS--Benito Perez Maza, first vice minister of higher education of Cuba [title as heard], is heading the Cuban delegation to the inter-governmental conference being held at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO. The forum is examining the role of education in promoting international understanding, cooperation and peace. [FL131825 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 83]

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE TO VISIT--Despite the repression and threats they suffer in the United States, 135 members of the Venceremos Brigade are preparing to travel to Cuba next Monday, a member of the brigade's national executive has announced. This 15th contingent will be larger than previous ones and will be comprised of young people from all over the United States, particularly from the black, Chicano and Puerto Rican communities. The national executive member said that this trip will be of great importance since it is one of the brigade's ways of expressing solidarity with Cuba at a time when the Reagan administration is intensifying its maneuvers and blackmail against Cuba. [FL131825 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 83]

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CSSR--The signing of the 1983-1985 cooperation agreement between the Cuban and Czechoslovak cinematographic industries was completed today at the main offices of the ICAIC [Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry]. Julio Garcia-Espinosa, vice minister of culture in the cinema sphere, signed for the Cuban side while (Bretislav Tivoda), deputy director general of the Czechoslovak cinematographic industry, signed for the fraternal country. [Excerpt] [FL090300 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Apr 83 FL]

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR MEETING--Politburo member Jorge Risquet has made the closing remarks at a national meeting held to evaluate emulation in the national Construction Workers Union. During the meeting, it was learned that the sector's production in 1982 amounted to 1,817,200,000 pesos. Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, and Pedro Fernandez, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the Construction Workers Union, also attended the meeting, during which it was announced the names of the 62 national vanguard workcenters and the 15 outstanding workers of the sector in 1982. It was also learned that during 1982 some 22 enterprises collected and distributed funds of material stimulation amounting to 4,260,800 pesos. In his closing remarks, Risquet praised the work of the hard hats, because they have saved in that period of time more than 31 million pesos and 128,000 tons of cement, 51,000 tons of fuel, and in the last sugar harvest cut 246 million arrobas of sugarcane. [Text] [FL091307 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Apr 83]

ARMY WORKERS UNION LEADERS--Armando Moran and (Jose Quinta) were elected secretary general and second secretary of the western army section of the Revolutionary Armed Forces Civilian Workers Union during the fifth conference which was closed by Brig Gen Samuel Rodiles Planas. [Text] [FL081630 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1515 GMT 8 Apr 83 FL]

MONTANE ATTENDS GDR CONFERENCE--Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo, arrived today in the capital of the GDR, heading the Cuban delegation which will participate in the scientific conference on Karl Marx, scheduled to begin next Monday. The forum, organized by Germany's Socialist Unity Party, is titled "Karl Marx and Our Era of Struggle for Peace and Social Progress," and will be held at the Palace of the Republic. The

conference will be inaugurated Monday at 1000 by the top leader of the GDR, Erich Honecker. Delegations of communist and workers parties, socialists, social-democrats and movements of national liberation will attend the conference in Berlin. During the forum, the participants will be able to exchange views on the effects of Karl Marx's ideas on today's world and the struggle for social progress. [Text] [FL091703 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1541 GMT 9 Apr 83]

DELEGATE TO FAO MEETING--Cuba has upheld that the problem of world food security would remain unsolved as long as needy countries lack access to products available at the world level. That statement was made by (Graciela Portocarrero), member of the Cuban delegation to the eighth regular session of the FAO Committee for World Food Security [Comite de Seguridad Alimentaria] under way in Rome. The Cuban delegate warned that if the effects of concentration of production and the limiting of underdeveloped nation's access to products available in the larger markets continue to persist, the present crisis situation will remain the same with a tendency toward getting worse. [Text] [FL141630 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 83]

RIOS MONTT STATEMENT SCORED--In a shameful speech that was broadcast nationally over radio and television, Guatemalan President Efraim Rios Montt said that Central America is in the U.S. backyard and it is only natural for the house owner to be concerned about matters pertaining to its security. The Guatemalan director contended that the Sandinist victory in Nicaragua changed the house owner's security, and stressed that the house owner is the United States. In his opprobrious speech, which insults Latin American dignity, General Rios Montt that the United States is right in feeling it is the house owner in what Washington regards as its backyard because the distance between Guatemala and Los Angeles is less than the distance between that North American city and New York. [Text] [PA182044 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Apr 83]

MEXICAN BUSINESS DELEGATION--A delegation representing 12 Mexican manufacturing and trade companies has been in Cuba since last Monday to promote the sale of their goods. Several of the companies are already known on the Cuban market, but others are here for the first time. Right now they are having meetings with Cuban foreign trade businessmen; the meetings will continue until 24 April. The Mexican companies are represented by 14 executives who are offering their products among which are chemical and pharmaceutical goods, fishing gear, electrical equipment and other articles. The mission is a result of the close cooperation between the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute and the Cuban Chamber of Commerce. [Text] [FL201645 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Apr 83]

LIONEL SOTO IN PRAGUE--Prague--Lionel Soto, member of the Central Committee Secretariat of our party, arrived in that capital today for an official and

friendly visit to Czechoslovakia for the purpose of exchanging opinions regarding bilateral cooperation. [Text] [FL181645 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1513 GMT 18 Apr 83]

CEMA VETERINARY SERVICES : NG--The final protocol of the meeting of chiefs of veterinary services for member countries, which held sessions in Havana Province, was signed last night in a ceremony presided over by Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the party Secretariat. Among the agreement, one dealing with veterinary medicines subjected to international testing was highlighted because it involves the introduction of new medicines to be used in our country which will have the effect of saving considerable amounts of foreign exchange. The meeting also approved international agreements on preventing the spread of dangerous animal diseases. It analyzed measures to counter stomach parasites [estoparasitos] which affect the skin and also reviewed animal health tasks for 1984. In his closing remarks, Cuban Vice Minister of Agriculture Adolfo Diaz praised the assistance provided by CEMA, particularly by the Soviet Union, in the veterinary field and stressed the importance of maintaining and further expanding these ties of cooperation. [Text] [FL161345 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Apr 83]

CABRIZAS IN SPAIN--In Madrid, Spain, Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas yesterday met with Spain's economy, Trade and Finance Minister Miguel Boyer within the framework of the conversations the two sides are holding on that important sector, trade. Earlier in the day, Cabrizas had met with the president of Spain's Foreign Bank, Francisco Fernandez Ordonez. According to the Cuban side, during the talks the level of integration of the Cuban and Spanish economic sectors was verified. Last year Spain occupied the second place among the countries with market economy with respect to the commercial relations with our country. [Text] [FL201313 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 83]

MONTANE IN GDR--Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo, has held talks in Berlin with Alfred Neumann, member of Germany's Socialist Unity Party Politburo and first deputy chairman of the GDR's Council of Ministers. During the fraternal meeting, Montane referred to the excellent organization of the international conference held in Berlin as a tribute to Karl Marx, and the importance of the broad participation in it of the fraternal Marxist-Leninist parties, other democratic and progressive organizations and national liberation movements. Montane stressed the value of the reports presented at the conference and the fact that they agree on the need for a struggle for peace and against the warmongering policy of U.S. imperialism. Montane and Neumann valued very high the speeches made at the ceremony dealing with the indissoluble relation between the struggle for the solution of economic and social problems, especially in developed countries, and the struggle for world peace. Neumann referred to the welcome given to the Cuban report read by Montane, which includes important segments of the book recently presented by Cuban President Fidel Castro at the Seventh Nonaligned Countries Summit Conference. [Text] [FL140042 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 83]

CSO: 3248/686

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE GROUP MEETS WITH CHARLES, REVIEWS ECONOMY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Apr 83 p 4

[Article by Peter Richards]

[Text]

ROSEAU Dominica (CANA) — Cautioning that the immediate prospects for expansion of the Dominica economy are bleak, the biggest private sector organisation here wants government to act urgently on a long list of problems which is seen as detrimental to the island's economic health.

The broad membership of the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC) had a two-hour discussion session recently with Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and other economic planners at which the problems were highlighted.

President Norman Rolle said local businessmen were calling first and foremost for a reduction in the "unrealistic" levels of duty on imports as well as other taxes which they contend are stifling production.

"The overall impact on the economy of these high rates of duty is damaging and self-destructive," Rolle told the session.

"Our view is that too much potential development is curtailed and restricted by (1) bureaucratic procedure, (2) unrealistic rates of duty and (3) extremes of income tax..." the DAIC president added.

The DAIC, which groups most businessmen in Dominica, also wants government to improve and reduce the cost of the operations of the port, take steps to curb widespread smuggling, and help businessmen to get ready finance for expansion projects, among other things.

"We ask that a thorough system of review of the areas identified be carried out jointly between private and public sector with a view towards correcting the downward trend in the economy," Rolle said.

The DAIC told Prime Minister Charles, who is also Minister of Finance, that high rates of duty now in force were robbing Dominica of vital foreign exchange because they were discouraging inhabitants of nearby islands from doing their shopping here as was previously the case.

Now with high prices, foreign shoppers were staying away and Dominicans themselves preferred to do the bulk of their shopping abroad because it was cheaper, Rolle said.

Government has requested time to study the problems highlighted by the business organisation. But its main concern is how it will continue to get the dollars brought in by the present levels of duty if there is a reduction.

Government says the duties contribute much to the approximately EC\$60 million it needs annually to provide Dominicans with "basic requirements" such as health care.

The DAIC wants government to act immediately by

removing a one and a half per cent "temporary" stamp duty tax introduced two years ago, plus a revision of the system of price control and the mark-up on goods.

It feels that these measures, the former in particular, would go a long way in stimulating the Dominica economy, still recovering from virtual wreckage by two successive hurricanes in 1979 and 1980 respectively.

Smuggling, another area of concern raised by the DAIC, "goes beyond the traditional acceptable meaning of the term as we know it which largely relates to the illegal importation of alcohol and cigarettes" the business organisation said.

Electronic equipment, clothing, vehicle spare parts, and food are among items smuggled into Dominica on a large scale which, the DAIC said, was forcing some business places to lower the cost of the same goods they have for sale to "ridiculously low or even non-competitive prices."

"Our observation leads us to believe that the situation is far more subtle than that and now seems to be an accepted way of life..." the association said.

"Another area of concern is the lack of adequate finance for development. The need for available long term finance is a prerequisite for infrastructural development. At the present time, seven to 10 years seems to be the very best available and in very short supply," it added.

Rolle also called for a change in the present rate of eight to 12 per cent mark-up on consumer goods, introduced about 15 years ago. This, he said, is "grossly inadequate in view of increases in wages, electricity, transportation, finance charges, cost of sales, etc."

The DAIC president added: "Also recognising that since the implementation of the 20 per cent mark-up on a wide range of items, there have been substantial duty and other increases thereby increasing the cost of sales. A request is being made to review these as well."

Concern was raised too about the illegal distillation of spirits here which the DAIC said was very much on the increase.

Tariffs currently in force were criticised and the business association stated: "The current high levels we know are largely responsible for the sharp fall-off in import revenues."

Government has indicated its willingness to study the problems raised by the DAIC. But the organisation, on the other hand, has warned that time is certainly not on the side of either themselves or the government for getting the economy on the move again.

PAPER ASSESSES JAMAICAN EXCHANGE SYSTEM, CARICOM ISSUES

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

CARICOM has recently been undergoing one of its periodic crises. Our Caribbean Community goes through so many of these spells that from time to time the query is made as to whether CARICOM is about to disintegrate. The truth of the matter is that all multi-national groupings, whether among developed or developing countries experience these periodic spasms as countries attempt to balance the purely national interest with the interests of the group as a whole. As implied earlier, the tendency to look at the national interest first is a natural occurrence, and, one might even add, a correct practice, provided that this is viewed in the light of the longer term group interest.

Jamaica's recent decision to introduce a second "parallel" exchange rate on selected commodities does not appear to meet the second criterion at all. There may have been need for Jamaica to devalue its currency, there may even have been justification for a two-tiered system of exchange rates. But there can be no justification for imposing this discriminating rate on Jamaica's own CARICOM partners. It is not surprising that Barbados and Trinidad have responded in the way they have (the former by floating its currency and the latter by imposing strict licensing of imports from Jamaica). No doubt the OECS countries will respond as soon as they can agree on a united position.

Why they need to respond is important and requires emphasis and an illustration. In the case of Dominica, for instance, our Government was able to achieve partial protection of our soap market in Jamaica by convincing the authorities to maintain that commodity on the earlier exchange rate level and hence keep the competitiveness of the product. But other potential exports from Dominica (eg. wooden doors, passion fruit juice, bottled water, garments etc.,)

will have serious difficulty in penetrating the large Jamaican market. So a serious constraint remains. It is unfortunate that, unlike Barbados and Trinidad, Dominica does not have a dynamic manufacturers group - indeed, the present DAIC would appear to be barely alive - which could have actively lobbied and produced the back-up data to support our government's efforts. Remember, too, that Jamaica's other problems in respect of limited foreign exchange and reduced import quotas continue to be a serious hurdle to cross in the case of all other CARICOM exporters. It is therefore not surprising why these countries have come down hard against Jamaica, viewing her action as the unacceptable "last straw".

None of this contributes to the CARICOM spirit. It is particularly disappointing that whilst in theory we should be lowering all barriers to trade among our CARICOM partners, in practice we are creating additional ones. I hope Jamaica has the grace and the greatness to accept there was an initial miscalculation and agree to withdraw the discriminating 2nd exchange rate where her CARICOM brothers and sisters are concerned.

But other new crises are already on the horizon. The institution is due to appoint a new Secretary-General by July to replace Kurlough King. Although a former top-rated officer, Edwin Carrington, (who very early on was grabbed by a major developmental institution in Europe) is widely touted to be the best man for the job, the issue just might develop into a slinging match with some CARICOM countries pushing their own nationals.

There is also the outstanding matter of Human Rights in the region. At the last Summit Conference, Grenada made many promises and

compromises which many doubt she will keep. With the upcoming Heads-of-Government Meeting and Surinam calling for membership in the Community — despite its absolutely atrocious conduct — there is bound to be some rough seas ahead.

But the leadership of our Caribbean Community can meet and consider and take action in a calm atmosphere. They need to keep on a steady course the fleet made up of our peoples, their history and their future.

CSU: 3298/530

AID DONORS CRITICIZED FOR IMPEDING ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 83 pp 6-7

[Column "Points to Ponder" by "Pragmatist": "The Great Roads Programme-- (I Hope)!"]

[Text]

One of the very early decisions of the Freedom Party Government was to attempt to get a major road reconstruction programme underway. The reasoning was that most of our major roads were at the stage where they deteriorated every 2 months after each patch-up job. The constant need to repair was costly and also inefficient.

It is to the credit of the government that they not only took the decision but were also able to convince donor governments and funding agencies of the need for such road projects as a priority.

There was also need to convince the donors that adequate funding was required to ensure that we ended with suitably constructed roads that would be maintenance-free for several years taking into account our high rainfall and general terrain.

This is a very important consideration since donor agencies generally like to maximise the return on their money and hence like to stretch the money. They would like to get the most miles of road per donated pound/dollar/peso/franc/dutch mark/ etc., etc. And since for example their official reports indicated that they got "X" miles of road in Barbados for, say, Y funds expended, they would like to get at least the same X miles of roads for their Y funds spent in Dominica. What the little bureaucrat sitting at a desk in Washington, or London or Paris often does not appreciate is that the cost of constructing a road in Barbados is quite different from the cost of constructing a road in Dominica. So for his Y funds he will get only X-Z miles of road in Dominica! Miss Charles has been stressing this point, so I hope her Ministry

of Communications & Works has negotiated appropriate aid amounts accordingly.

Miss Charles has also publicly stated that "those whose aid is given quickly, gives twice as much." That I know has not been heard or understood by the little bureaucrats from rich countries and organizations who control the needed funds. Hence, after 3 years of begging and 2 years since approval, not a single major road construction has physically started. This is poor, but I don't blame Communication & Works; I blame the donor agency bureaucrats and their all consuming paperwork.

Where I might blame the Ministry of Communication & Works and Minister Dyer is if I see that the quality of road we end up with is unsatisfactory and will require maintenance and "patch-up" within six months or so. That would be intolerable. It is important that we get

value for money. It may be better if we get 20 miles of good road than 30 miles of barely suitable road. I hope that the Ministry is relying on competent road consultants to ensure that the road construction is to the required standards. For I have little confidence in the technical people attached to the Ministry (based on the mess that still exists at the Public Works Department and the continuing extremely bad condition of most of our roads). Someone must be made responsible.

So the pressure is on the Ministry. The pressure is also on USAID, CIDA, Venezuela and the World Bank to ensure that they provide us with roads suitable to our needs.

I will not hesitate to publicly chastise each and all if they fail to perform --- and to recommend, if necessary, that we bring in Cubans to get the work done properly!

BRIEFS

FRENCH AID—Mr. Andre Jean-Jolly, French Cultural Attache, Trinidad, presented the Government of Dominica with cheques totalling some one/quarter million (EC\$1/4m) dollars. Minister of Education, Health, Culture and Sports, Senator Charles Maynard receive cheques of \$64,457 and \$35,000. The first amount goes towards the completion of the new Town School (which should be completed for the commencement of the new school year); while the latter is for the improvement of the Casualty Department of the Princess Margaret Hospital. Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Heskeith Alexander received a cheque of \$130,308.54 for a Farmers' Training Centre in La Plaine. The two government officials thanked the French Government for this invaluable gesture, and for its overall, on-going assistance to the state. Mr. Jolly was accompanied by Dr. Zonza. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/53

EXPANDING ROLE OF CO-OPERATIVES IN ECONOMY REVIEWED

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 13 Mar 83 pp 10-11

[Article by Keith Jeremiah]

[Text] Four years ago there was nothing within Grenada's economy that could have been called a co-operative sector.

The credit union movement and an agricultural co-operative in Tivoli, St. Andrew's, were the only functioning co-ops.

Today, however, the sector has significantly expanded and is one of the three principal pillars of the national economy, with some 23 co-ops, 14 of them agricultural.

The expansion was a direct result of the PRG's decision to establish the National Co-operative Development Agency (NACDA), to supervise and fund all newly formed co-ops throughout the country. Summarising the sector's performance last year, NACDA's registrar Melvin Mitchell said that it grew modestly and has continued to supply the local and overseas market with fresh vegetables and fruits.

Generally, he said, it was able to diversify itself, with co-ops other than agricultural, such as restaurants, bakery, construction and farming.

But last year, four co-ops were closed down, due to drop-out members, ill discipline and managerial incompetence.

NACDA has identified the causes of such problems, as the poor academic levels of co-op members, who left primary school before standard seven. He pointed out that the problem will be dealt with this year and beyond.

Foremost among NACDA's plans for this year, to boost the sector, is emphasis on education and training. Mitchell disclosed that NACDA has approved training programmes for both its officers and co-operatives.

NACDA is also urging co-op members to enroll in the second phase of CPE's adult education program, so as to improve their academic levels.

To improve their managerial capabilities, NACDA has begun work on a simple accounts system that will soon be introduced on the co-operatives. Its staff is now being briefed on how to pass on the system to co-op managers.

Worker education classes, similar to those now being held in workplaces throughout the country, would also be organised for the co-ops, Mitchell said.

Working closely with the Artisanal Fisheries Project, the Productive Farmers Union (PFU) and the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB) is another of NACDA's major focus for this year.

Mitchell pointed out that this is to stimulate fishermen and farmers to form co-operatives. He predicted that this year will bring an expansion in fishing and non-traditional co-ops.

Farmers are expected to form co-ops that will ease their common problems, such as marketing and transportation.

On the marketing problems co-ops face, Mitchell said that NACDA recently approached the MNIB to obtain a list of all marketable products including when and in what quantity they are needed. This, he said, will assist co-ops in implementing farm

NACDA also plans to develop the public's awareness on the benefits of co-ops by reintroducing its quarterly newsletter, developing slide shows on existing co-ops and continuing its weekly programme on Radio Free Grenada.

Mitchell said there are good prospects this year for the expansion of service co-ops in craft, marketing and transportation.

But, he added, that by yearend, when the public is likely to have better understanding of co-ops, there should be more agricultural co-ops being formed.

CSO: 3298/519

NEW HOUSING, ROADS PROJECTED USING LOCAL MATERIALS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 13 Mar 83 pp 8-9

[Text] The Sandino industrial complex at True Blue, and the emulsion plant at Grand Mal, both to be officially opened this weekend, are indicative of the better roads and more houses coming to Grenadians.

Already, the Sandino plant is producing each day 12,000 to 14,000 bricks, which are used for constructing the terminal building at the international airport at Point Salines.

Full production of prefabricated panels and columns will begin soon and will be used mainly by the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB).

Materials used in constructing the new administrative building, which will house the clerical staff, are produced by the complex. When fully completed, which should be soon, the complex will provide pre-fabricated units for 500 houses each year.

The emulsion plant, which is costing the PRG some \$1.3 million, will be producing emulsion for road surfacing. By mixing pure asphalt with water and other emulsifiers, the plant will save the country a tremendous amount of foreign exchange, which went into importing bitumen already mixed with water.

Right now, the plan is awaiting bitumen and emulsifiers before it can begin mixing bitumen for use on the road.

An agreement was recently concluded with a United States firm, which was expected here early this month. Someone from Italy is also expected to help get the plant going and train 10 workers.

A plant manager, Lawrence Samuel, has already been appointed, with Lester Nelson as its advisor.

The Ramon Quintana asphalt plant and quarry at Mt. Hartman will produce some 50,000 tons of asphalt mix and 70,000 tons of crushed stones.

A gift from the Cuban government, the plant has been producing the asphalt mix and stones mainly for the international airport. But when the airport is completed, these materials will go for other construction work within the country.

Work has already begun on expanding the St. George's port, one of this year's major construction projects.

"Chinatown" once reputed for its wild life, has already been pulled down, and all the rubbish in the surrounding area burnt.

Contracts have already been signed with a number of firms to do on-shore and off-shore marine works.

The project involved constructing a vehicle maintenance shop, fencing and paving the entire area, rehabilitating the existing sheetpile wharf, and re-locating the drain there, to run behind the Public Workers' Union Centre.

The project is funded by the Port Authority to the tune of \$1 million, with the Caribbean Development Bank and Canadian International Development Agency providing \$7.5 million.

The first 50 houses of some 289 under construction in the Grand Anse Valley should be completed by May. Work on these houses are 30 per cent complete.

Funding of the 50 houses, which are the pilot phase of the over-all project undertaken by the National Housing Authority (NHA), is from three local commercial banks.

The lowest paid workers will benefit from the gift of 100 pre-fabricated houses from Venezuela. Work on these units, which will be set up in St. David's, St. Andrew's and St. Mark's, should begin soon.

CSO: 3298/519

COARD PRESENTS RECORD \$255-MILLION BUDGET FOR CURRENT YEAR

Spending Levels

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 19 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

SOME 400 new jobs are expected to be created in the state sector this year, in addition to the 650 jobs created last year, said Minister of Finance, Trade and Planning, Bernard Coard, as he outlined the national plan for this year, at the Dome on Thursday. He revealed that for this year, the value of production from the state sector has been set at \$95 million, an increase of 30.3 per cent over last year's figure of \$72.9 million dollars.

He also said that last year's output from the state sector went up by some 34 per cent over the 1981 figure, which stood at \$54.4 million.

In terms of output from the private sector, Min. Coard said that an eight per cent increase

was expected this year, over last year's figure. Last year, the private sector output increased by 10 per cent over 1981, he added.

On state sector profits, Min. Coard said that for this year some \$5 million in net profit was expected, an increase over last year's \$3 million net profit.

Net profit in the private sector for this year was projected at \$2.5 million.

Grenada's inflation rate for this year was projected at 8.5 per cent, following last year's seven per cent rate of inflation.

Min. Coard said that the wage projection for both the private and public sectors this year, is an average 10 per cent, increase, similar to that of last year's.

This year he said, an increase of between 3-4 per cent was projected in the growth of the economy.

He pointed out that every year since the Revolution, Grenada's economy has grown in real terms - 2.1 per cent in 1979, three per cent 1980 and 1981 and a record 5.5 per cent last year, one of the highest in the Western Hemisphere.

For this year, Grenada had set itself the task of reducing its real import bill by two per cent over the 2.2 per cent reduction last year. Grenada also expects to reduce its food import bill by two per cent, from 27.5 per cent of total imports last year, to 25 per cent this year.

In exports, Min. Coard said that in 1983

about 60 per cent of Grenada's exports will be from traditional crops such as cocoa, nutmegs and bananas, while 40 per cent will be from other products.

Grenada, he said, expects to export about \$53 million in produce, an increase of 6.2 per cent over

last year, when it exported some \$50 million worth of goods to countries in the Caribbean Community and outside.

All projections set for this year, Min. Coard stressed, can be achieved only by hard work from all Grenadians.

Economic Growth

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 19 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

THE People's Revolutionary Government has announced a record budget of some \$254.8 million for this year -- 38 per cent larger than last year's.

The announcement was made by Deputy Prime Minister of Finance, Trade and Planning Bernard Coard, during presentation of the 1983 budget and plan at the Dome, Grand Anse, on Thursday.

He said some \$145 million would be spent on capital projects, including completion of the international airport and Eastern Main Road, continuing of the farm and feeder roads projects, and expansion of the

electricity and telephone systems.

Min. Coard said that some \$81 million had been allocated for recurrent expenditure: 37 per cent of which will be spent on health and education.

Some \$86.3 million was expected to be collected in recurrent revenue, which he said, would create a surplus of \$5 million in the recurrent account.

A further \$15 million had been set aside for recurrent expenditure on state enterprises, with a projected recurrent revenue of the same figure, Min. Coard said.

Min. Coard also announced a 21.5 per cent increase in pension

for this year and last year.

He said that in the people's comments on the budget both years, they called for an increase in pension.

Following discussions by Cabinet Wednesday, an increase of 10 per cent in the first instance and a further increase of 12.5 per cent, backdated to January this year and January 1982, was agreed upon, he said.

This increase, he said will amount to half a million dollars.

Min. Coard cited the increase to pensioners as necessary, because of their contribution to the country.

AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES APACE, CUBAN AID CITED

Cuban Minister's Assessment

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 19 Mar 83 p 7

[Text] Cuban Minister of Construction, Jose Lopez Moreno, has said that although work on the international airport is progressing at good speed, and deadlines are being met, additional steps are being taken to ensure that the airport opens for the fifth anniversary of the Revolution, next March.

Additional spare parts for equipment being used and additional technical personnel to reinforce drafting work being done are some of the measures being taken, he said.

The rhythm of work being carried out now, by itself will ensure that the airport finishes on time, Min. Moreno said. But he also pointed to the willingness of the Cuban internationalists and Grenadian workers to use all methods necessary to complete the airport on time.

While here, from March 11-16, Moreno spent a good part of his time evaluating the work being done on the international airport, meeting leaders of the Cuban contingent and the workers at the airport.

Min. Moreno, who also addressed a rally officially opening the Cuban-donated Sandino housing complex at Mt. Hartman, said admirable work was being done by both Grenadian and Cuban workers. The Sandino housing complex, he said, was one of the projects, under an agreement between Cuba and Grenada, that should be completed this year, it was on schedule, and of the appropriate quality.

In both these projects, Min. Moreno noted the close ties between the Cuban and Grenadian workers, saying that at times it was difficult to differentiate between them since they all worked hard and had a good relationship.

In the four days he spent here, Min. Moreno said he saw the revolutionary militance of the people and the economic and social achievements they have made, particularly in the opening of the St. Paul's Community Centre and the Sandino housing complex.

In the face of the United States government's declaration that Grenada was a threat to US security, Min. Moreno said the workers have decided to work more intensely to ensure that Grenada gets its airport by next year.

The US, he said, was more worried about Grenada's example in the economic and social spheres than about the international airport. They were angry, he said, that after having waited 20 years, Grenadians were seeing completion of the airport, just five years after the Revolution.

Construction Progress

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 13 Mar 83 pp 16-17

[Article by Camille Ramnarace]

[Text] Each day Point Salines looks more like the international airport it will be, come next March.

The site is shaping up, and humming with activity at all corners.

There appears to be more Grenadians actively working now, keeping pace with the Cuban internationalists who have laid the foundation for Grenada's most ambitious and exciting project.

It's a project that, by next year, will have changed not only Grenada's prospects, but its map as well.

The mountains of Point Salines have been cut down to hill size, and the 9,000-foot runway, stretching across what was once Hardy Bay, is all but completed.

What the runway needs now, is not so much length, as width and height, says project manager Bob Evans.

The 150-foot wide strip already has four layers of paving and needs one more. On either side, 25 foot wide hard shoulders will be paved about 1.5 inches thick, and to the sides of these, will be grassy borders.

The soil here is now being turned over for planting.

Near the east end of the runway, to one side, is the beautiful pond left by Hardy Bay, and to the other, is the sea front.

Under the runway, and one metre under sea level, workers are now laying a culvert from pond to sea, so that the pond water will not stay stagnant.

Two similar culverts are also being laid under other parts of the runway, for normal drainage.

And, on the sea front, a stone armour is being laid to prevent erosion.

To the north of the runway, the parking apron for planes has been completed, and beyond it, the first floor of the terminal building is taking shape. Workers are putting on the roof and the inside partition walls.

By next January, this will be a modern, airy, two-storeyed building, with glass front, airline offices, restaurant, lounges and waving gallery.

The arrival and departure lounges will lead to and from a car park and taxi-stand, from where motorists can drive onto a new road, now being built, that will link up with the road to St. George's.

West of the terminal building, a central generating station, which will house three generators of 150 kilovolts each, is going up. In front of that will be a fire station.

To the west of these, work continues on the control tower technical block, which will house radio and other electronic equipment for running the 37-foot high tower.

Further west is a completed cargo shed that just needs air-conditioning in a small blocked off part, for special goods.

Near the new lighthouse on the northwest coast, workers are building an air-field lighting substation for electronic equipment that will connect to the airfield lights.

Back out, northeast of the runway, the fuel storage area has been set up with four large tanks—two of 1.5 million gallon capacity and two of half-million gallons.

Close to it and the new access road, workers are putting up a structure for the non-directional beacon and navigational equipment.

Still to go up are a water tank system, incinerator and navigational equipment at Fort Jeudy.

This week, to help the work, the Cuban ship "Matanzas" brought a crane, two "back-hoe" excavators and two small tractors for setting up a telecommunications cable system, and a big drill to help lay down the water supply system.

Evans said the airport is now awaiting equipment from two firms, Plessey of England and Metex of Finland.

Metex will supply all the lighting, three fire engines and three fuel vehicles.

Plessey is expected to install its navigational and other electronic equipment by June.

In the meantime, training is being arranged abroad for Grenadians in airport management, air traffic control, meteorology and airport firefighting.

All this is costing, this year, \$50.6 million, \$15.6 million of which will come from central government funds.

The rest will come mainly from overseas assistance, contributing to the airport's truly international character.

And, by the fifth anniversary of the Revolution, the airport should begin paying for itself.

Equipment From Finland

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 26 Mar 83 p 7

[Text] Some \$6.5 million worth of equipment for the international airport arrived from a company in Finland yesterday.

The electrical and ground handling equipment came abroad the "Nedlloyd Flevoland".

The electrical equipment includes all the lighting for the airstrip, parking apron, car park and the access, road.

The ground handling equipment includes three fire trucks, three fuel tankers, two with a 45,000-litre capacity and the other of 10,000 litres and one catering vehicle.

The contract for the equipment was signed between METEX, a Finnish company, and the PRG last May.

About 75 per cent of the \$6.5 million is a line of credit from the Finnish Government to be repaid over eight years at the interest rate of eight per cent.

Payment will start after commissioning of the equipment.

A second contract, valued at \$33 million was signed with an English firm, Plessey Airport Limited, to supply and install air-control, navigational, communication, and ground-handling equipment and electronic equipment for the terminal building.

Project manager Bob Evans, commenting on the airport, progress, said that the new access road is 30 per cent completed and the whole project about 70 per cent completed.

CSO: 3298/518

INJECTION OF POLITICS IN LONDON MISSION CRITICIZED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Apr 83 p 3

[From the anonymous column "Listening Post," signed "The Listener"]

[Text]

I hear that the Jamaica Freedom League in England is concerned about some of the staff at the Jamaican High Commission in London save for the High Commissioner himself. They have written to the Government saying that there are staff at the High Commission who are strong PNP supporters including one who they say is a top PNP man who had been sent to Cuba by the former Prime Minister, Mr. Manley on several occasions, and who had been Secretary of the PNP in England from 1968 to 1972; and that when the PNP won the elections in 72, he was given a post at the High Commission, a post which he still holds. Some 100 petitioners have sent a petition to the Government of Jamaica asking that the matter be investigated.

They say that the JLP supporters in England are never invited to public functions at the High Commission, and that most of the invitees are PNP supporters. They claim also that some of the staff of the High Commission have been giving wrong information to the public, and according to them, sabotaging the present JLP Government. They have sent a petition, they say, because it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to raise funds to help Jamaica from among JLP sympathisers because they feel that the Government is taking no action about changing the political image of the staff at the High Commission. They say that the staff concerned should not be fired, but should be transferred, especially as a number of them they say have been there for a long time.

Would the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Office of the Prime Minister care to comment? As for this column, let us state that Government is a continuous process, and a new Government can't or should not dismiss or transfer people just because they served the former Government faithfully. But if there is evidence that they are politicking against the Government, then they face the danger of being dismissed.

SEAGA ANNOUNCES LOAN FROM JAPAN FOR COFFEE PROJECT

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 10 Apr 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The Government of Jamaica has concluded a loan of US\$25 million from the Government of Japan to implement a 3,500-acre Blue Mountain Coffee Development Project in the Shirley Castle/Claverly Cottage area of West Portland, Prime Minister Edward Seaga announced on Friday.

The overall cost is US\$45 million of which the Government of Jamaica will provide US\$20 million over the project period of five years.

According to a news release from Jamaica House, the project will involve the establishment of coffee pulperies, finishing works, and community infrastructure, in addition to 3,500 acres of farms.

The loan which is for 25 years will carry an interest rate of 4½ per cent annum and a grace period of seven years and will be executed by the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund of Japan.

Mr. Seaga said that the project is scheduled to begin by the end of this year. Planting will take place over five years and commercial reaping is expected to commence in the fourth year after planting. The Prime Minister said the foreign exchange earnings from the project will be approximately US\$1.25 million in the 4th year and will increase to US\$17.5 million when the 3,500 acres is in full production by the eight year. Current earnings of all coffee exports from Jamaica now amount to US\$6 million.

Mr. Seaga explained that the community infrastructure in and around the project area now include the construction of 15 miles of new asphalted area and improvement 17 miles of existing roads within the project area to improvement to 22 miles of access roads. In addition, there is to be 30 miles of rural electrification, a water supply and distribution system, a fully-equipped all age school with teachers' accommodation, a fully-equipped health centre, a community centre and 1,000 housing units.

The loan is a result of the Prime Minister's visit to Japan in 1981 when he held discussions with the Japanese Government and the Japanese importers of Blue Mountain coffee regarding the development of Jamaica's Blue Mountain coffee industry to determine what additional acreage of Blue Mountain coffee could be undertaken. Of this 10,000 new acreage, 3,000 acres are now being developed in upper St. Andrew and St. Thomas with assistance from a Commonwealth Development Corporation Loan. This project which was recently started, he said, "is on target and doing well."

The new project for 3,500 additional acreage in West Portland will bring

the total amount of new coffee developments to 6,500 of the projected 10,000-acre increase.

Mr. Seaga said that given the rate of capital investment per acre which is approximately US\$3,500 when matched against a net return of US\$2,500 per annum, coffee was "a highly profitable crop." He said that it was well worth the investment, and was now attracting "new blood into the agricultural life-stream of the country."

He expressed his deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for making the loan available at very concessional terms. He said there was an assured market in Japan for Jamaica's increased production and noted that it was the Japanese who played a major role in improving the marketability and enhancing the value of Jamaica's Blue Mountain Coffee which was now described as "the Rolls-Royce" of coffees.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, and his team for the vital role they played and said it was one more major project which they could view with pride. He also thanked the Chairman of the Coffee Industry Board and the Coffee Industry Development Company Mr. Gordon Sharpe, and his staff for the

hard work they had done in putting the project together.

Minister of State for Finance, and Member of Parliament for West Portland, the Hon. St. Clair Shirley, in whose constituency the project will be sited and who was present for the announcement, said the project would immediately create an economic base for the people of Portland and he was delighted that it was now a reality. He also paid tribute to the team from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Sharpe recorded his organisations' appreciation to the Prime Minister for establishing the communication channels which were necessary to create the project. He also acknowledged the work of the Ministry of Agriculture and expressed the hope that the farmers would continue to respond favourably to the initiatives being taken by the Government.

Others present were - Mr. John Pickersgill, General Manager, CIB; Mr. George McPherson, General Manager, CIDCo; Miss Joyce Chang, Secretary to CIB and CIDCo; Mr. Trevor Clarke, Director, Planning and Projects, ministry of Agriculture; Miss Clover Walcott of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Lincoln McIntosh, National Planning Agency.

VALENTIN CAMPA RECOUNTS ASPECTS OF CAREER, LIFE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Mar 83 pp 4-A, 27-A

[Interview with former Communist Party leader Valentin Campa by Marta Anaya, at his Tlatelolco home, date not given]

[Text] A cup of hot water already was on the table when Valentin Campa appeared. He was dressed in shirt sleeves, dark trousers of an old cut and a green sweater, most likely hand-knitted. From his broad forehead bulges a large vein running along his left temple.

Campa made himself comfortable in the living room's armchair, exactly in the corner, and he did not move from there for 2 hours. The whistle of trains leaving and entering the Buenavista station could be heard in the distance. And here, in the Tlatelolco section, the old communist fighter was saying:

"I have not liked my life...but I am a realist and I do not torture myself."

After spending 14 years of his life--he is now 79--in prison, with 12 arrests and always harassed, Valentin Campa recognizes defeats..."but I am not an unsuccessful man." He asserts that he is an irredeemable optimist and recalls in good humor his having been leader of the Communist Party without having read Marx's "Das Kapital."

[Question] You did not know "Das Kapital?"

[Answer] No...but I knew the capitalists--he added between smiles.

A railroad man at heart--his greater frustration is not having been a train engineer, or at least a fireman--Campa says he is not afraid of anything: "The blows have hardened me." He says he is not afraid even of death although, paradoxically, he adds: "I want to live."

Campa seems to be a man of passions. His greatest hatreds are directed at three labor leaders: Luis N Morones, Lombardo Toledano and Fidel Velazquez [head of the Confederation of Mexican Workers]. "Morones was a treacherous and corrupt leader; Lombardo was a traitor of the highest order of the working class; and Fidel, a poor corrupt devil, against whom Morones was just an apprentice."

Regarding himself, Campa believes he has acted consistently toward what is thought, what is said and what is done. About the country's future he says a revolutionary upheaval is inevitable to change the structure of society because the peso devaluation means poverty and hunger for the people. He illustrates his argument with this popular saying: "There are those who live without eating for many years, but no one can stand it for 100 years."

They Knew I Would Not Talk No Matter What They Did

Of long face, small mouth and aquiline nose and eyes, Don Valentin recalls his first labor struggle for the release of two anarchists who had been sentenced to death: Sacco and Vanzetti. "I spoke at various assemblies. I participated in a very important demonstration in Tampico for their release. I did not belong to the party then, But I was a trade unionist and in favor of the release of Sacco and Vanzetti."

[Question] Have you ever been tortured?

[Answer] I have been beaten only once in my life. It was during the 1927 railroad strike. I was 23 then, and this vein you see on my temple burst. I was never beaten again. I had the reputation of not talking no matter what they did.

[Question] Who are the men you have admired the most?

[Answer] In my lifetime, General Cardenas. And very special cases, such as Hernan Laborde. He and I were like brothers.

[Question] And from Mexican history?

[Answer] (Ricardo) Flores Magon. He exerted much influence on me. He was an anarchist, a very intelligent person. He had mistaken ideas but he struggled with great conviction and honesty...which is why he died in prison.

[Question] What do you respect in people?

[Answer] Honesty in words and deeds.

[Question] How would you describe yourself?

[Answer] As a man who has acted according to the principle that there must be consistency between what is thought, what is said and what is done. This can bring much suffering, but one never gets tangled in complications. I believe it is the expression of honesty.

[Question] What is your greatest desire?

[Answer] Success of the working class and working people.

[Question] And personal?

[Answer] I do not desire anything.... Perhaps that my family not be as harassed as it has been all its life.

[Question] Have you been a man of big love affairs?

[Answer] No.... Even as a youth my conduct always was quite correct; very correct with the girls...and they were annoyed because I was straight.... But that was my way and that is how I was in my youth.

"I Cried Only Once In My Youth"

Some wisps of hair droop onto the forehead of the communist militant. His hands move up and down as the phrases accumulated; always looking straight at this writer. Meanwhile, the cup remained on the table untouched.

[Question] Have you ever cried?

[Answer] When I was very young. At the time of the [Francisco] Madera revolution, I had become friend of many Chinese who worked in the eastern part of Torreon. I would go with them to the market to help them sell and they let me eat whatever I wanted..., sometimes I took something to my mother. They worked as laborers for a landowner who also was Chinese. One time, word spread that the Chinese had poisoned the sources of water because they were Porfirio Diaz supporters. Anyway, the word spread and hatred of the Chinese was fomented in town. A pro-Madera general then ordered that the Chinese be killed.

About 100 meters from my house, Campa continues, there was a ravine where adobe was made and I saw the Chinese, my friends, brought there. They were placed with their backs to the chasm, while soldiers were in front of them with machineguns. My mother took me inside the house. But there was a high window in my room; and I set up a table, a chair and a box until I could reach the window. And I saw--screaming and screaming--how they were killing my friends.

[Question] When did you read your first book?

[Answer] I began to read books as a very young boy. One of the first was the Bible, which at that time was banned (its reading) by the Catholic religion. I did not understand many things and I became quite concerned. But I read a lot, primarily anarchist literature. There was no electricity in my house. I read with those oil lamps and my mother used to get angry. She would say: "You are going to get sick..."

[Question] And Marx?

[Answer] I read Marx under a very regrettable circumstance. I was already in the Communist Party when I was told that a compendium of "Das Kapital" had been published. I was quite interested. I was a bit strange for me, but I bought it. I studied it and I did not understand a thing.... Eleven years later, I was already leader of the party, I bought a good "Das Kapital"

edition by the Aguilar publishing house. And I realized that that famous compendium had been a dreadful infamy, trash. Then I read the book and learned a lot.

Expelled from the Communist Party for 20 years and "blackballed" in the railroad, Campa continues to be--despite everything--an optimist. He admits to having made grave political mistakes, primarily the one of withdrawing his resignation during the communist campaign of "unity at any cost."

In a clear, deep voice, Valentin Campa speaks as follows about the principal labor leaders he knew:

"Luis N Morones was a hateful, corrupt man..."

[Question] Did you hate him?

[Answer] Of course, for he persecuted us, nothing more and nothing less. Furthermore, he was a hateful man to the working class, corrupt and completely sold out to big capital and to the government.

[Question] What is your opinion of Lombardo Toledano?

[Answer] I dealt with him under different phases. Without knowing him personally, we attacked him a lot because he was Morones' right-hand man. I hated him furiously. Later I met him in person.

[Question] And your opinion changed?

[Answer] He changed....I did not. When the 1929-32 economic crisis came, Lombardo changed his way of thinking. He studied Marxism and even went to the Soviet Union. When he returned, his path was on the left. He was our ally. He became a socialist in talk and ideas; but always seeking ways to make himself comfortable.

[Question] How about Fidel Velazquez?

[Answer] Fidel Velazquez is a poor devil. He acquired capital the same way Lombardo did and he is now a magnate. Fidel is the example of corruption, continuismo and bureaucracy.

"I Have Not Liked Life"

The only nickname Campa has had was given him by longshoremen in his younger days: "El Chato" [snub-nosed], which was one way of indicating the complete opposite. From that time he also recalls one of the things he liked best: milk candies "and some gummy ones but I do not remember what they were called..."

After this long chat--the cup still there, untouched, with the water surely cold--I asked the old communist leader:

[Question] Well, have you like your life?

[Answer] No, I have not liked it. I am not a conformist. But I am a realist and I do not torture myself. I believe that I have done everything possible to conduct myself well, to be useful to my class, to the world class, and that is satisfactory. Now, if I were to be born again, I would behave the same way....

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CSO: 3248/659

VALENTIN CAMPA DENIES SPLIT IN LEFT, DISCUSSES PMT

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 11 Mar 83 p 6

[Article by Julio Hernandez Lopez]

[Excerpt] In his Tlatelolco apartment, Valentine Campa emphatically says: "There is no split in the Mexican Left." On the contrary, he stresses, recently there have been constant expressions in favor of unity, and the PSUM [United Socialist Party of Mexico] policy of alliances, basically in connection with the PMT [Mexican Workers Party], will soon give positive results.

"Most of the Left", he adds "is united within the PSUM and those not in it are with its ally, the PMT. Therefore, when there is talk that the Left is split, to which party are they referring, to the PPS [Popular Socialist Party] and to the PST [Workers Socialist Party]? Those are not of the Left. To the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party]? Well, we are allied in various areas..."

Regarding Demetrio Vallejo's dismissal from the PMT, Campa is careful, merely explaining that "such an incident undoubtedly does much harm to the PMT, but not to the PSUM; and vaguely to the Left. Of course, we regret that distressing incident."

He then insists that the alliance with the PMT will show the experience of advancing together. "I believe the alliance with the PMT will lead to unity, although not immediately..."

Moreover, the PSUM intends to take the alliance with the PMT to the electoral field. The [economic] crisis seems to cause a concern which promotes unity "although without yielding on question of principle."

Regarding the status of the PSUM, to which he belongs, Campa asserts that "it is not a hope, but a reality; a historic fact." Unification, he states, "is moving along and on very solid foundations, although we still have not ironed out certain differences, but the basic, principal problems of strategy and tactics have been resolved. In addition, we have experience, and we know that there will be differences even in a very disciplined party."

Campa immediately denies that the Left is affected by bossism. In the PSUM, he asserts, "there are no bosses and we are against personality cult. Besides, its internal affairs are quite healthy."

He then recalls that some people criticize the PSUM for its democratic internal activities. "We know that there must be a lot of discussion, especially at the stage we are in now, even when some presentations or discussions apparently are out of focus, but they must be heard and guided."

When asked again about the PMT, he prefers to make no comment.

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CSO: 3248/659

JOINT PROGRAMS WITH BRAZIL

FL112309 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2210 GMT 11 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Apr (NOTIMEX)--Mexico and Brazil today agreed to conduct programs of infrastructure, exchange of technology and coinvestments to face up to the financial and economic crisis, the secretariat of commerce and industrial development has announced.

The secretariat reported that representatives of the two countries had met last week to examine the trade structure between the two nations for the purpose of increasing commerce and expediting import and export paperwork.

The two delegations stressed the determination of the governments of Brazil and Mexico to step up the export of manufactured products, in addition to the trade of basic primary products.

The secretariat of commerce and industrial development noted that the delegations had agreed to respect national interests in accordance with whatever decision is adopted by the two countries.

Representing Mexico were officials from the secretariats of foreign relations, finance and public credit, energy, mines and state-run industry, agriculture and hydraulic resources, communications and transport, fisheries, the Bank of Mexico, Foreign Trade Bank and others. The Brazilian delegation was made up of the ministers of foreign relations and finance, officials of the Central Bank of Brazil, the Institute of Reinsurance, Petrobras and Interabras.

CSO: 3248/674

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL--Mexico City, 8 Apr (LATIN-REUTER)--Raul Valdes Aguilar, a 50-year-old career diplomat, has been appointed Mexican ambassador to Israel, replacing Alfonso Leon De Gatay, the foreign relations secretariat said last night. [Text] [PA101245 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0834 GMT 8 Apr 83]

CSO: 3248/674

PLI PRESIDENT ON LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

PA201311 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Independent Liberal Party President Virgilio Godoy, who has returned from a Liberal International meeting in Austria, made the following statement about their efforts to achieve peace in Central America:

[Begin recording] As was reported here, I made the trip to participate in the meeting of the Liberal International's Executive Committee, which took place in Vienna, Austria. During the meeting, we discussed the need to increase the Liberal International's awareness of the Contradora Group's efforts and to offer an effective contribution toward solution of the problems in Nicaragua and Central America, with the hope of solving the area's crisis.

Our proposal was welcomed with the same spirit with which the participants view the position of the committee for the support of Nicaragua, which was established by the Liberal International more than a year ago. It was agreed that the executive committee will propose direct contacts with the governments involved in this problem and will establish contacts with the Socialist International and the Christian Democratic International, so that all of these large political organizations can work to seek a solution to the Central American crisis.

We believe that this is highly important. I have even requested that the Liberal International Executive Committee visit Nicaragua; though this request is still under discussion, it is very likely that it will be approved. I also proposed that a delegation from the European Parliament--in which the Liberal International participates significantly--visit our country. Therefore, we feel that our actions are fundamental to the basic plan to seek solutions and to move toward the achievement of peace in Central America in general and, consequently, in Nicaragua. [end recording]

CSO: 3248/690

REPORT ON BAYARDO ARCE VISIT TO SPAIN

Meets With Gonzalez, Moran

PA072130 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] Spain Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez reiterated his solidarity and support for the Nicaraguan revolution during the interview he held yesterday with Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission.

The solidarity was stated in both political and economic terms. During a 2-hour dialogue of frank camaraderie, Felipe Gonzalez accepted an invitation to visit Nicaragua in the near future, as head of state. His acceptance of the invitation to visit Nicaragua during these difficult times when our country is being invaded by mercenaries who bring sorrow into Nicaragua homes can be seen as firm support for the Sandinist revolution.

In the economic aspect, they analyzed bilateral relations, and it was agreed that Spain will maintain and increase its lines of credit. This will be reaffirmed during the visit of (Luis Velasquez), secretary of state for trade, who will come to Nicaragua this month.

They also studied the possibility of Spain donating wheat to Nicaragua in an attempt to solve partially the problems being faced by the Nicaraguan revolution due to suspension of credit line (PL-480) by the Reagan administration. It was also decided to study the possibility of organizing a mixed commission for cooperation.

Regarding the Central American situation, both Commander Arce and the Spanish prime minister agreed there is need for a negotiated solution to this situation, because dialogue is the only way to solve regional problems.

In relation to the report on Nicaragua that will be presented to the Socialist International, and the position of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, PSOE, in this regard, the two leaders agreed that the draft resolution is the most appropriate one, and is likewise advocated by other parties.

The international economic situation was also discussed during the meeting, as well as the economic situation being experienced by Third World countries in facing their external debts.

At the end of the meeting, Commander Arce was interviewed by the Spanish news media regarding the Spanish Government's willingness to participate in negotiations on the Central American crisis. Commander Arce answered that Felipe Gonzalez has always been willing to participate in any process that seeks a negotiated solution.

During the meeting held yesterday morning between the coordinator of the FSLN Political Commission and Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, Commander Arce blamed the United States for being the main culprit behind the mercenary invasion against Nicaragua. He also pointed out that the FSLN believes that, in addition to internal efforts, the international community must play an important role, as follows: exerting pressure on the United States to abandon its present attitude, strengthening the efforts of U.S. Congressmen who oppose Reagan's warmongering policy, and expressing solidarity with Nicaragua in political and economic terms.

Minister Moran told Commander Arce that the Spanish Foreign Ministry will explain this viewpoint to other European countries, and support the Nicaraguan position in this concern.

Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano will hold an interview today with the most important news media of Madrid. Later he will travel to Portugal, where he will participate in the Socialist International Congress.

Returns from Spain, Portugal

PA141138 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The Socialist International's reiterated support for and solidarity with the Sandinist Peoples Revolution and Nicaragua's bilateral cooperation agreements with the Spanish Government are matters of vital importance for the Nicaraguan people, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce said today on his return from the Iberian countries.

The Sandinist leader said that the foreign policy resolution issued at the 16th Socialist International Congress, which recently ended in Albufeira, Portugal, favored Nicaragua. The Socialist International countries supported the initiatives for peace and negotiations to resolve the problems of our country and area.

Arce's talks with Felipe Gonzalez, president of the Spanish Socialist Government, were another important aspect of the visit, in that they ended with the creation of a mixed Spanish-Nicaraguan committee, which will be formalized with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's visit to Spain in July.

Commander of the Revolution Arce Castano was met at the Augusto C. Sandino International Airport on his return to the country this morning by Henry Ruiz, planning minister and commander of the revolution; Rene Nunez, FSLN National Directorate secretary, and Nora Astorga, deputy foreign minister.

Upon his arrival in Nicaragua, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce noted that the Spanish Government will increase its aid to Nicaragua, adding that a regular amount of flour will be arriving from that Iberian country in a few days. The National Directorate member was quite satisfied with the successes achieved for our people, for the consolidation of our process and with the

support garnered for our government's proposals for peace. Referring to the broadening of trade relations with Felipe Gonzalez' socialist government and to Spanish donations, Commander Bayardo Arce said:

[Begin recording] Our visit to Spain, which was the first country we visited, was a private one. We met with a very positive response from Felipe Gonzalez' socialist government. They have decided to increase their credits for Nicaragua, agreed to create a mixed Spanish-Nicaraguan committee, which will be made definite during Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's official visit to Spain, which will probably be during the month of July. I don't know the exact date at this time.

A few minutes before we left for Nicaragua, we were told that Spain will send a donation of flour. We had requested wheat, but this was not confirmed; however, we were told that a shipment of flour for the Nicaraguan people would be sent. [end recording]

CSO: 3248/690

D'ESCOTO ON U.S. 'INVASION', MONSIGNOR OBANDO

PY041909 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1745 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (TELAM)--Upon his arrival in this capital today, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'escoto stated: As is public knowledge, my country is undergoing an invasion perpetrated by the United States, through Honduran territory, mainly with former Somocist guards.

D'escoto arrived in Buenos Aires today to attend the fifth ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 which President Reynaldo Bignone will open tomorrow.

In statements to the media D'escoto stated that the United States wants people to believe that Nicaragua is divided and engaged in an internal struggle. He then noted: There have always been disagreements with the Sandinist revolutionary government's policy. They have not managed to divide us and any attempt to do so has also failed.

He then accused the United States of implementing a criminal and irresponsible policy and once again pointed out that they will not achieve their objectives.

D'escoto went on to point out that there are no problems, no disagreements, no reasons for clashes between Nicaragua and Honduras: We are brother nations and our peoples do not desire war.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister pointed out that unfortunately the United States chose Honduras as the springboard for its attacks against Nicaragua. Therefore, the possibility of a clash becomes more likely so long as Honduras agrees to be used.

Further on, when he was asked about the presence of Argentine citizens in the forces invading his country, D'escoto stated that countries or governments cannot be responsible for every citizen. He confirmed that there are Argentine citizens who do not represent the Argentine people or the government. They are Argentine mercenaries, CIA agents.

D'escoto disclosed that the invaders are being repelled and that some of the invader groups have been wiped out completely.

When he was asked about the censorship on the Easter holiday messages, D'escoto admitted that not only the Easter messages but every message is subject to censorship since they were engaged in war.

D'escoto then accused Monsignor Obando, bishop of Managua, of being the main leader of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, but asserted that the relationship with the Vatican has not deteriorated despite the political nature of the elections for Managua bishop.

CSO: 3248/689

WHEELOCK ADDRESSES CST NATIONAL COUNCIL

PA 072244 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Text] We Nicaraguans have to fight to maintain the nation's sovereignty and carry out the social changes desired by the people. This was stated last night by Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural development, to over 60 representatives of the National Council of the Sandinist Workers Federation, CST.

Wheelock added that Nicaragua has been obliged to wage a historic struggle in the face of increased aggression by imperialism, which has declared a covert war to destroy the Sandinist People's Revolution.

This newscast presents the comments made by Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, minister of agricultural development, to the members of the CST National Council.

[Begin Wheelock recording] We have begun a historical phase that is much more difficult than previous eras, because it is decisive, because what is at stake here is imperialist power, imperialism's chances to retain its power in Latin America. Thus, once again it has been the role of the Nicaraguan people to experience the things that are occurring at this time. We are confronting the United States. A small country with its humble citizens, workers and peasants is waging a struggle with its humble citizens, workers and peasants is waging a struggle of great magnitude and historical importance to America and to the world. Once again, our people are obliged to fight against U.S. imperialism.

We have two options: to win or to die, and death to us is not interpreted as disappearance from life, as the burial of our bodies; death is to surrender. Death is what Moncada, Chamorro and Diaz made of Nicaragua: a colony of the United States. We cannot permit this. We have to fight for two objectives: first, to maintain Nicaragua's national sovereignty, the existence of a nation that is called Nicaragua; and second to carry the social changes forward and to advance the two great historical tasks that we have set for ourselves from the viewpoint of our revolutionary strategy--national liberation and socialism. Those are our two basic tasks, and that is why we are--and we state that we are--our people's vanguard, and we place ourselves at the head of our people in that struggle. That is what is happening here. [End recording]

CSO: 3248/688

FDN ANTI-SANDINISTS PUBLISHING BULLETIN 'COMANDOS'

PA160107 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2159 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The COMANDOS bulletin, of the anti-Sandinist "Nicaraguan Democratic Forces" (FDN), began circulating in Honduras today. The bulletin calls for insurrection in that neighboring country.

"We Nicaraguans must immediately organize for the insurrection. It is up to us to rescue our country from the betrayed revolution and its internationalist accomplices. As they did against the Somoza dictatorship, the democratic nations will again offer us their support," the COMANDOS editorial states.

It adds that the FDN has earned "the confidence of the international community as the political and military solution to the Nicaraguan problem, based on its authentic political pluralism and its representativity of all social and economic sectors that make up the Nicaragua of all times."

Published in four colors, with 12 profusely illustrated pages, the first issue of COMANDOS is dated 15 April, in Nicaragua.

According to the bulletin, the members of the FDN leadership are Enrique Bermudez Varela, Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, Alfonso Callejas Deshon, Marco A. Zeledon, Lucia Cardenal de Salazar, Indalecio Rodriguez Alaniz and Edgar Chamorro Coronel.

COMANDOS announces the transmission of the "15 September" radio station, described as "the only medium enjoying freedom of expression in Nicaragua."

CSO: 3248/688

TIRADO LOPEZ RETURNS FROM EUROPE, MIDEAST

PA191652 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Commander Hugo Torres, who is in charge of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] Political Directorate, and Commander of the Revolution Victor Manuel Tirado Lopez returned to the country yesterday after visiting several countries in Europe and the Middle East. Commander Tirado Lopez represented the FSLN National Directorate at the "Karl Marx and Struggle for Peace and Social Progress" conference, where he addressed the delegates. The event was held in the GDR between 11 and 16 April.

This conference on Marx was a very important event, Commander Tirado Lopez said, stressing that the participation delegations had unreservedly supported the Nicaraguan revolution. Commenting on his trip, Commander Tirado Lopez said:

[Begin recording] [Tirado Lopez] The conference held in Berlin on the occasion of the centennial of Karl Marx's birth was very important.

We say (?that this was) as important as the first assembly held by the first international.

I can sum up the fundamental aspects of this conference: First, the struggle for peace, and Karl Marx as one of its great figures; second, the contributions made to Marx's doctrines; and third, the support received by Nicaragua. The support that Nicaragua received was at the core of the entire conference and [words indistinct]. The support received was truly surprising. These were the three fundamental issues.

We realized that our revolution is neither alone nor isolated. Our revolution has the support and sympathy of all progressive countries and governments [passage indistinct].

[Question] Was there any specific answer for Nicaragua?

[Answer] I think that Nicaragua must be satisfied with our participation there because as we said earlier, Nicaragua is not alone [words indistinct]. The U.S. Government may stage any action against us, but it can't eliminate this revolution. That must be clear.

Some of the Western media that interviewed us even denied some of the Reagan administration's assertions. We have never destabilized the U.S. Government. We have never said that we created unemployment, inflation or recession. They have domestic problems, yet they blame us, claiming that we are destabilizing Central America, (?the world) and even them. This was very clearly stated at the conference: the crisis (?is their own doing). Moreover, (?the crisis) is not even of the entire capitalist system, but of the (?Americans). They have a profound influence on the crisis. This was very clearly stated at the conference. [end recording]

CSO: 3248/690

UN ENVOY SPEAKS AT NONALIGNED SESSION

PA151927 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Javier Chamorro, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, has reiterated his country's willingness to talk with the United States and Honduras in order to find peaceful solutions to the Nicaraguan-Honduran conflict.

During a Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau session at the United Nations, Chamorro said that the tense situation created by Honduras on the border with Nicaragua must not be considered at the OAS, stressing that it is an inappropriate forum for discussion of the issue and that it is being used by the United States in its anti-Nicaraguan campaigns.

Chamorro noted that the United Nations and its Security Council are the instruments that can ensure success of the efforts to put an end to the conflict. He said that these efforts must be moved by the spirit of the proposals presented by the Contadora Group, composed of Panama, Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia.

For its part, the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau expressed concern over the escalation of covert imperialist actions intended to destabilize the Sandinist revolution.

In a statement to the press at the United Nations, Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said that one of the causes for the current political tension in Central America is the attacks that the former Somozist guardsmen are launching from Honduras. For this reason, he stressed, there is an urgent need to begin a dialogue among the parties in conflict, including the United States, to find a peaceful solution for the crisis.

CSO: 3248/690

NUNEZ MAKES STATEMENT WHILE VISITING ALGERIA

PM201319 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 12 Apr 83 p 16

[APS report: "Invasion Process Aimed at Destabilizing Whole Region"]

[Text] Algiers [no date given]--Carlos Nunez Tellez, member of the Sandinist liberation front, chairman of the Nicaraguan National Assembly and special envoy of Maj Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Sandinist Junta of the Provisional Government of National Reconstruction, described in Algiers yesterday the situation at present being created in Nicaragua by the infiltrations of former Somoza guards and which is the result of the negative U.S. attitude.

Carlos Nunez, who had been received during the day by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the [FLN] Party, and by Mr Rabah Bitat, member of the Politburo and speaker of the National People's Assembly, reminded the journalists that the invasion of Nicaragua is part of a general plan to destabilize the revolutionary countries of Central America which are "determined to make the region a zone from which all forms of colonialist and imperialist domination will be radically eliminated."

Nicaragua, he recalled, has for 2 months been the target of systematic attacks carried out by the former Somoza guards. Several thousand counterrevolutionaries have infiltrated all of Nicaraguan territory, particularly establishing their bases in the mountains in the north of the country. The response of the Sandinist people's army had initially made it possible to put several dozen Somoza guards out of action. The overall record of the operations carried out from the start by the Sandinistas gives the figure of 500 people killed and wounded in counterrevolutionary ranks, Carlos Nunez Tellez announced.

The rest of the counterrevolutionary forces, the chairman of the Nicaraguan National Assembly added, "have scattered throughout the country, using, among other methods, terror against the civilian population, especially against the peasants."

The Nicaraguan Government's special envoy also explained that "the losses lamented are mainly among the civilian population, and children and pregnant women have been decapitated."

"Indeed, this invasion per se does not worry Nicaragua, but beyond it the danger of a direct confrontation with Honduras worries the Nicaraguan Government," Carlos Nunez Tellez also specified, stating that his country is sparing no effort to find a peaceful solution to this situation.

In this context, he stated, Nicaragua is making diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the region's problems and welcomes the initiative taken by the countries which launched the Cantadora island (Panama) appeal.

"We are prepared to find an effective solution to the problems by a dialogue respecting our rights to national self-determination, independence and sovereignty," Carlos Nunez Tellez concluded.

CSO: 3219/28

CORDOVA RIVAS HAILS AID FROM NETHERLANDS

PA090237 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] Government Junta member Rafael Cordova Rivas recognized yesterday the unconditional aid that the Netherlands has been extending to Nicaragua. This aid totals over \$70 million.

Cordova Rivas spoke in Corinto yesterday on inaugurating the services of the modern tugboat (Lolo Molina), that the national port enterprise purchased from a Netherlands company. The tugboat will be used to tow two large ships that cannot come into port under their own power when the tide is low.

Present at yesterday's ceremony were members of the Netherlands Embassy staff as well as representatives of the Transportation Ministry and the port enterprise. Cordova Rivas recognized the importance of the tugboat and of the Netherlands aid.

Let us listen to an excerpt of the speech Cordova Rivas made on inaugurating this service:

[Begin recording] The Netherlands has contributed 210 billion florins to the Sandinist revolution, some \$72 million. However, the most important aspect of this cooperation, this busy and constant cooperation, through which the Netherlands people have been continuously extending aid to our country, has been that no political or economic conditions have been imposed on our receipt of the loans that have been extended to the Nicaraguan people so freely, without hesitation and with an open heart. [applause]

Many donations have come through this port of Corinto. The last award of a bilateral loan for this tugboat, which is partially financed by the Netherlands Government and partially with our own funds, will greatly contribute to keeping big ships from damaging our wharfs. Thus we will not have to regret unfortunate events like those that have occurred in the past. This tugboat will make it easier for large ships to enter the port area and dock.

The attitude of the Netherlands Government contrasts with that of the U.S. empire. While the U.S. empire attacks us, it tries to destabilize and overthrow and cause us every possible harm so that the Sandinist revolution will be unable to fulfill its historical principles and purposes, the Netherlands Government, with its cooperation and aid, helps inspire our gratitude toward a country which, although small, is large in its assistance to Nicaragua. [end recording]

CS0: 3248/689

CARIBBEAN PERSONALITIES PROTEST SOMOZIST INVASION

PA082357 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT
8 Apr 83

[Text] The invasion of Nicaragua by counterrevolutionary bands infiltrated from Honduras and the intervention of Somozist guardsmen trained by the CIA and supported by the United States have generated active rejection throughout the world. The protests of representatives of progressive organizations in the Caribbean was not long in coming.

(Ricky Parren), secretary general of the Movement for National Liberation of Barbados, said: The escalation of U.S. military intervention in the affairs of the sovereign Central American countries is an attempt to halt the peoples' struggle against backwardness and dependence on capitalist countries. The United States wants to keep our countries from freeing themselves of their colonialist past; that is why it is carrying out actions that threaten the sovereignty of Nicaragua and Grenada.

For his part, (Perry Luque), secretary general of the Revolutionary Workers Movement and a staff writer for the (LUCIAN TIMES) of St Lucia, said: The most serious threats of any that have existed since the time of the Bay of Pigs in Cuba are now hanging over the progressive forces of Central America and the Caribbean region. There are some who feel that Reagan will not attack Grenada because it is a small country. Perhaps the U.S. President does not covet its natural resources, but he is concerned that Grenada is a bad example, and example of how a small country can develop its economy independently of the imperialist countries and moreover, choose its own friends. The United States is meddling in Nicaragua's internal affairs for these same reasons.

Meanwhile, Renwick Rose, secretary general of the United People's Movement of St Vincent and the Grenadines said: The acts of aggression against Nicaragua are another crime against the struggle for social justice waged by the peoples of the Caribbean. This aggression shows signs of imperialist hysteria. We are convinced that the children of Sandino will put an end to the senseless imperialist adventure and we invite the governments of the Caribbean countries to take the appropriate measures so that the Nicaraguan revolution may develop without imperialist intervention.

Dr William Riviere, a leader of Dominican confraternity, the Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance political committee, declared: Our party firmly rejects the intervention that is underway in Nicaragua, a sovereign country. Responsibility for the aggravation of the situation in the Caribbean falls entirely on Reagan and his administration. They are primarily responsible for the organization, financing and realization of the acts of aggression against Nicaragua. Our solidarity with the Nicaraguan people is unshakable.

CSO: 3248/689

ASTORGA ON FIGHTING, CONTADORA GROUP MEETING

PA200416 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2325 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Managua, 19 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga today said that lately "the Honduran Army has become directly involved in the aggression against Nicaragua."

The official's statement was made during the report she presented at the inauguration of the fourth regular meeting of SELA's Action Committee for Nicaraguan Reconstruction, CARN, which started today in Managua.

Deputy Foreign Minister Astorga added: "We will not be the ones to start a war with Honduras." She said that is why "we have maintained mature relations and insisted on the need to establish a bilateral dialogue with Honduras and the United States."

Regarding the efforts being exerted by the foreign ministers of the "Contadora Group," which will meet again tomorrow in Panama City, she said that Nicaragua trusts them because "they represent responsible governments" and because "we believe they represent a guarantee for all the parties involved in this conflict."

Astorga said that Nicaragua rejected the Honduran initiative presented at the OAS "because it is not the proper forum for this problem."

The deputy foreign minister stressed that Ronald Reagan's government is evidently intent on interfering in Nicaragua.

According to Astorga, the United States also interferes with the Honduran Government, because Nicaragua had reached an agreement with the government of General Policarpo Paz Garcia to carry out a joint border patrol system in an attempt to detect Nicaragua's alleged supply of weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas. However, "everything changed" when President Roberto Suazo Cordova assumed the presidency.

She added that the Nicaraguans initially believed that they could coexist with the Reagan administration and "develop our democracy, based on political pluralism, a mixed economy and nonalignment." However, it turned out to be

the opposite: Credits were cut, trade was blocked and the Sandinists are being accused of aligning themselves with the Soviet Union.

Nora Astorga said that the United States has never "been able to prove" that Nicaragua is sending weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

During the meeting of CARN--created by SELA in 1979--the governments of Bolivia and Grenada joined the organization. Colombia attended the meeting as observer, represented by its ambassador in Managua.

CSO: 3248/689

BRIEFS

CUBA'S ORAMAS IN MANAGUA--The United States and Israel are trying to repeat in Central America the genocides they practice in Lebanon and in other occupied Arab territories, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Oscar Oramas said in Managua. Oramas heads the Cuban delegation to the Central American regional conference on the Palestinian question under way in the Nicaraguan capital. The conference was opened Tuesday by Sergio Ramirez, member of the Junta Government of National Reconstruction. The filthy alliance between Yankee imperialism and its Zionist associates manifested itself in the delivery of Israeli weapons to the shameful Somozist regime in a vain attempt to prevent the liberation of the Nicaraguan people, Oramas said. He added that even now Israeli weapons and advisors assist Central American tyrannies. Sergio Ramirez said the United States intends to reproduce massacres in Central America as horrendous as its Zionist associates perpetrated in the Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. In a Central American conflict no country will be safe because it would be a war without borders, Ramirez said. [Text] [FL131245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 83]

ANGOLAN SOLIDARITY MESSAGE--Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Teixeira Jorge has sent a note of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and their revolutionary process, in view of the armed invasion which is afflicting the country. The document says: We strongly condemn these acts of aggression encouraged by U.S. imperialism with the complicity of certain neighboring countries, which have caused considerable human and material losses. The Angolan foreign minister's note, addressed to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'escoto Brockman, adds: We express our militant solidarity with the heroic people of Nicaragua and their vanguard, the FSLN. We are fully convinced that you will be able to safeguard the achievements of the Nicaraguan revolution. [Text] [PA 081630 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 83]

ALLEGED 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' ATROCITIES--A band of 30 counterrevolutionaries burned 10 Miskitos alive and shot an employee of the People's Commercial Corporation, CORCOP, to death in a place called La Palmera, some 70 km from La Rosita Mine, in Zelaya Norte. This took place at about 1000 on 14 April. The only survivor of the massacre, Eduardo Fonseca Moncada, told the grim story of how the counterrevolutionaries burned the Miskitos alive with flamethrowers. The Miskitos were riding in a CORCOP truck, when it was ambushed by Somozist guardsmen. According to Fonseca, Santos Ramos, the truck driver, had picked the 10 Miskitos up somewhere along the road. Fonseca explained that he managed

to escape when the driver, who was wounded ran off the road and hit a bush giving him a chance to jump out of the truck and run. The Miskitos riding in the back were burned alive horribly by the counterrevolutionaries, who used flamethrowers. Fonseca said that there was a woman carrying a 4-month-old baby with the Miskitos. The counterrevolutionaries took the 30,000 cordovas that Fonseca was carrying to pay the workers at the Prinzapolka forestry project. [Text] [PA211514 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 83]

WHEELOCK ON U.S. MEASURES--The Reagan administration cannot violate the multilateral trade agreements that Nicaragua has signed because it is a member of the GATT, Agricultural Development Minister Commander Jaime Wheelock said yesterday on referring to the possible reduction of sugar exports to the United States. Wheelock indicated that Nicaragua has not received a message in this regard, but he added: We know they are capable of anything. If they are organizing a war against the people, it is possible that they will continue to wage an economic war. The Sandinist leader added that Nicaragua is a member of various international organizations of sugar producers and marketers and if the Reagan administration violates these agreements, it would be applying a discriminatory policy that would violate the international rules of the game. [Text] [PA071605 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 83]

UNITY MEETING OPEN--The fourth meeting of the Congress of Latin American Unity [Congreso de Unidad Latinoamericana] has opened in Managua with personalities from 14 countries in attendance. The purpose of the organization, which was founded in Mexico in 1970, is to defend Latin American resources subject to exploitation by U.S. interests. The agenda to be discussed at the forum consists of two points: sovereignty of the Central American peoples in the face of imperialist aggression, particularly against Nicaragua, and financial colonialism and neocolonialism in the Latin American countries. [Text] [PA102316 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Apr 83]

CORADEP DIRECTOR APPOINTED--The government junta has appointed Marlen Chow director of the People's Radio Broadcasting Corporation, CORADEP, the organization in charge of state radio stations throughout the country. Radio Deporte, Radio Exito, Radio Continental and Radio Futura are among CORADEP's stations in Managua. [PA080241 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 29 Mar 83]

DELEGATES TO IPU MEETING--Managua, 16 Apr(DPA)--Nicaragua's State Council announced today that a three-member delegation will travel to Finland tomorrow to attend the IPU spring meeting in Helsinki from 24-29 April. The delegation will be led by Deputy Commander Rafael Solis Cerda, State Council secretary. The other delegates are Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren and Alejandro Rodriguez. The Nicaraguan delegates will denounce the armed invasion of Nicaragua by former Somozist guards, explain the Nicaraguan peace efforts to ease tension in

the region and express Nicaragua's desire to hold bilateral talks with the United States and Honduras. [PA181358 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2111 GMT 16 Apr 83]

SPANISH CREDIT INCREASE--A Spanish Government spokesman has revealed that credit to Nicaragua will be raised to 8 billion pesetas (some \$60 million). The agreement was adopted yesterday at a Spanish cabinet meeting. [PA151724 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0855 GMT 14 Apr 83]

COSTA RICAN CONGRESSMEN--Costa Rica and Nicaragua, united in the struggle for peace, were the words heard Saturday in Penas Blancas, on the southern border, during the arrival of a Costa Rican Legislative Assembly delegation in Nicaragua territory. The delegation came to Nicaragua to confirm their participation in the continental meeting of solidarity with the sovereignty of Nicaragua and Central America, to be held 21-23 April in Managua. The Costa Rican delegation arrived in Rivas, where together with Nicaraguans they participated in a ceremony for peace held in Carlos Fonseca Square. The Costa Rican delegation delivered to a Nicaragua State Council delegation, a motion reiterating Costa Rica's support for peace and detente in Central America. A plaque was unveiled in Rivas' main square honoring Nicaraguan-Costa Rican friendship and solidarity. [Text] [PA111924 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 83]

BULGARIAN WHEAT--Kiril Zlatkov, Bulgarian ambassador to Nicaragua, will deliver a donation of 10,000 tons of wheat, constituting about a 4 months' supply of bread for the Nicaraguan people. The donation is worth some \$2 million. [PA151724 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Apr 83 p 12]

SWEDISH AID--Negotiations on cooperation between the Nicaraguan Government and the Swedish International Cooperation Commission ended successfully yesterday. The Swedish delegation arrived in Nicaragua on 10 April. Edmundo Jarquin, minister of the International Reconstruction Fund, represented Nicaragua in the negotiations, as a result of which Sweden has decided to increase the aid it planned to give Nicaragua in 1983 by 25 million kronas. [PA151724 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Apr 83]

CSO: 3248/688

POLITICAL GROUPINGS SUPPORT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Labor Party

PA110452 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Apr 83 pp 32, 20

[Resolution No 3 of the Provisional National Board of the Labor Party, dated 31 March; passages within slantlines published in upper case]

[Text] The Provisional National Board of the Labor Party (PALA) in the process of formation, exercising its powers under the party's bylaws;

/Whereas/:

Through Cabinet Resolution No 148 of 19 November 1982 the executive branch appointed a commission to review and propose amendments to the current constitution after prior consultation on a nationwide basis with various bodies and organizations;

A member of this board served as a representative of PALA on the commission for review of the constitution;

On the morning of 30 March 1983 the commission for review of the constitution submitted to His Excellency President Ricardo de la Espriella the list of constitutional reforms;

It behooves the Panamanian people, as the sole guardians of national sovereignty, to make the decision about the constitutional reforms;

By means of Resolution No 38 of 30 March 1983 the cabinet council called a referendum that is to be held on 24 April 1983 "in order for the citizens, through free, universal, direct, egalitarian and secret vote to decide whether or not to approve the reforms to the 1972 constitution proposed by the commission for review of the constitution of the Republic of Panama to his excellency the president of the republic";

The list of constitutional reforms proposed by the reviewing commission is a fundamental step on the path to the democratization of the Panamanian state and, therefore, a momentous step in the institutional life of our republic;

/Resolves/:

/One/: To exhort the members of PALA and the Panamanian people in general to turn out en masse at the polls on 24 April 1983 and to vote /yes/ for approval of the constitutional reforms and thereby consolidate the democratization process that the Republic of Panama is experiencing.

/Two/: To recommend the promotion and broad dissemination of the constitutional reforms on a nationwide basis through all communications media in order for them to become known by all citizens.

/Three/: To create a PALA national committee to cooperate with the national government, the political parties and other associations in publicizing and promoting the constitutional reforms.

/Four/: To empower the party's president to appoint the members of a committee for promotion and dissemination of the constitutional reforms.

Issued in Panama City on 31 March 1983.

(Signed) Carlos Eleta Almaran, president; Azael Vargas A., first vice president; Jeronimo Escala, second vice president; Campo Elias Munoz R., general coordinator of the commission for review of the constitution.

This is a true copy of the original issued on the same date.

Panama, March 31, 1983.

Campo Elias Munoz R.

(Signed) Ricardo Franco Aguilar, recording and correspondence secretary.

MOLIRENA Document

PAl11815 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Apr 83 pp 1, C-12

[Document released by the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement in Panama City; no date given; passages within slantlines published in upper case]

[Excerpts] A. The dismantling of the system of autocratic and personalistic government through which the dictatorship became enthroned in this country on 11 October 1968, is a considerable and positive advance.

B. Although we understand that it is natural that every constitution aspire to broad and lasting consensus among the citizens for which it is destined, the fact that the republic is currently in the midst of a transition toward a more promising future, gives great practical and political significance to a much more rapid and expeditious formula than established in the 1946 and 1972 constitutions for amendments to the constitution.

C. MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] realizes that it is the /Panamanian people' without pressures of any kind, who must have the last word concerning the merit of the proposed amendments. MOLIRENA only hopes that in making such an important decision, they will not only think about the defects which, as a human work, this proposal may have, or about what might have been accomplished but was not, but also about the meaning of these changes to a prompt, orderly and peaceful transition of a more just, honest, representative and efficient government than we have endured for over 14 long years.

In recommending that Panamanians vote /yes/ in the /referendum/, MOLIRENA wishes to state that whatever the people's verdict, it will continue its unavoidable struggle for democratic restoration, for the recovery of national dignity and decorum and for the very noble cause that the national welfare and grandeur represent.

[Signed] /Board of Directors/

President	Cesar Arrocha Graell
Vice President	Jorge Ruben Rosas
	Abraham Pretto
	Guillermo Quijano, Jr.
Secretary General	Manuel Solis Palma
Under secretary General	Luis Guillermo Casco Arias

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Organization	Alfredo Ramirez, Jr.
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People's Party

PA110418 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Apr 83 p D-]

[Communique issued by People's Party in Panama City on 6 April]

[Text] During a plenary session of its Central Committee held on 5 April, the People's Party decided to vote "yes" on the constitutional amendments that are going to be submitted to a referendum on 24 April, if the "yes" means a unity of the forces of the process and a continuation of the Torrijist process of changes.

The decision to vote "yes" is fundamentally based on our policy of promoting unity among the forces and parties that have formed part of the process led by the late Gen Omar Torrijos. We have reached the conclusion, after making an overall evaluation of the proposed reforms and all that has not been reformed, that the democratic spirit of the 1972 constitution has been preserved.

An analysis of the reformed constitution will show that concessions have been made to the groups and parties of the oligarchic opposition, with which we are not in agreement. We specifically refer--among other things--to the elimination of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and the National Legislation Council as well as some aspects of education.

These bodies, which compose the legislative branch, would be replaced by a legislative assembly, whose members would be elected on the basis of electoral districts that in some way will coincide with the current administrative districts. Therefore, the principle of participation of the 1972 constitution is maintained.

There would be room in this legislative assembly for legislators representing the interests of the rural and urban workers, the indians and the middle class.

Our "yes" presupposes a commitment of the forces supporting the process, of the forces that are prepared to struggle against the oligarchy, to close ranks not only to achieve a correct enforcement of constitutional precepts at the level of the electoral tribunal and the National Legislation Council but to confront jointly the serious problems faced by the country and, above all, the 1984 elections and the defense of the people's gains.

We will release within a few hours the resolution that was approved by the Central Committee Plenum.

FRAMPO Document

PA150032 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Apr 83 pp b1, a16

[Communique issued by the National Executive Committee of the Popular Broad Front in Panama City on 9 April; slantlines denote boldface as published]

[Text] The Popular Broad Front (FRAMPO) has always maintained that there is a need for the 1972 Constitution to be amended in order to make it compatible with the country's political and economic reality.

This position was the result of a serious analysis carried out by the party. Its objective was to avoid the unleashing of violence among the political parties that are struggling for power in Panama. Similarly, it was the proper response that FRAMPO offered to the entire citizenry in answer to the political groups comprising the FRENO [National Opposition Front] that were calling for a constituent assembly. The FRAMPO members realized that, on the other hand, the constitutional amendments were the path to be taken within the process of democratization that was started by Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, not by the opposition.

Thus, remaining consistent with its positions, FRAMPO supported the creation of the Commission to Review the National Constitution, and appointed FRAMPO Deputy Secretary General Alvaro Arosemena to be its representative within that organization.

Now that the commission has concluded its work, the FRAMPO National Executive Committee has made a study of the proposed constitutional amendments and has reached the conclusion that they firmly establish democratic principles and rules for political coexistence that are equally valid for all political parties. Thus, from the constitutional viewpoint, the political parties will struggle for power under equal conditions.

FRAMPO has seen with satisfaction that many of its proposals have been incorporated into the amendments, for example the election of all legislators, all mayors and all councilmen by direct popular vote. We hail with satisfaction the inclusion in the constitutional amendments of clear rules that institutionalize political parties as a fundamental part of democracy and a vehicle of expression by the citizenry.

/The constitutional amendments should be supported by all the Panamanian people because they are a political necessity./

/We reject any attempt to transform the referendum into political booty./

FRAMPO exhorts all its members and the Panamanian people to participate in the referendum by going to the polls to vote /"yes"/ in support for and approval of the constitutional amendments.

FRAMPO hereupon takes a responsible position in the trenches of the struggle to maintain our international peace and democracy and to consolidate the basic popular gains that are the essence of /Torrijism./

Liberal Party

PA131915 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The Liberal Party political committee issued a statement last night expressing support for the constitutional reforms. In its statement, the

Liberal Party political committee recommended that all of its members and all Panamanians vote yes in the referendum. It also recommended that the party president appoint a commission to draft a communique explaining the political committee's decision.

The Liberal Party was represented by Roberto Aleman in the constitutional reform commission.

CSO: 3248/675

FORMULA FOR LENDING CREDIBILITY TO REFERENDUM OFFERED

PA170131 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Apr 83 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] One of the first promises made by the "October revolution" was to draft an electoral code that would adequately and thoroughly regulate everything concerning political parties and the casting and counting of votes. Almost 15 years have passed, and we are still without the code, and the Electoral Tribunal has not been able to establish an acceptable system to guarantee pure elections and the honest counting of votes. Each one of the elections we have had since 1972 has had serious irregularities and wrongdoings of the most varied nature. The same thing occurred with the plebiscite regarding the Canal treaties, and with the 1980 elections for legislators. In continuing with this sad tradition of irresponsibility and inefficiency, the upcoming referendum will be carried out without voter lists and without representatives from the political parties at the voting tables. We understand that the results of the latest electoral census will not be ready in time to issue electoral lists. It is impossible to rectify so many years of negligence with the necessary speed in order to have electoral lists ready for the upcoming referendum. The absence of electoral lists and the failure to determine the total number of voters permitted at each table poses an enormous possibility for fraud. This makes it absolutely necessary for all political parties that wish to do so, to have representatives at the voting tables, so that they may sign the document certifying the vote counting. The decision of the Electoral Tribunal in this respect is all that's necessary, as we are sure that political parties would enthusiastically collaborate in appointing their representatives. Only in this manner will the results of the referendum have any credibility.

CSO: 3248/675

PAREDES PRAISES NATIONAL INDIAN POLICY

PA152153 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1806 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Speech by Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the Panamanian National Guard, at meeting with Guaymí Indians in Alto de Jesus, Veraguas Province--live]

[Excerpts] Immediately after my brief speech, the Panamanian president will give a definitive reply to the subject of the reservation or region for the Guaymí people. In my view they well deserve it because they are also our Panamanian brothers.

This scene that we see here in Veraguas Province is not easily seen in other countries. You know that very near us--I will not mention the names of the countries so that we will not enter into international conflicts--the Indians like you are being exterminated. They machinegun them instead of having this attitude of establishing closer ties with the Indians which is part of the achievements in the past 14 years.

You have not been really struggling for this region for the past 7 years. Instead, for the past 58 years you have wanted to have your own region. The truth is that in these past years this government has tried to do what was not done before 1968. We are going to achieve it. We are very close to achieving it. The president of the republic will speak about this in a few minutes.

I want to tell you something very respectfully. It is something that I must say before leaving here. I am sure that in this way we will get to know each other better. This is a homeland where all of you have rights. It is true that some things have to be corrected such as the definition of the region. But in this homeland there are 2 million people and there are other Panamanians who are not Indians. They are no less and no more than you. All of us are equal in this homeland, in this great country. That is the basis for the great principle of balance and peace. We have to maintain that tradition of mutual respect and order, a lot of order.

If you have no problems with the Panamanians who are as poor as you, I think great progress will have been made; I think we are getting closer to the final solution. I must also say that those other Panamanians who have large tracts

of land within what will be the reservation or region and who are involved in other economic activities to earn their livelihood, will have to understand that they must give way to the indian region in order to avoid conflicts and to maintain that fair balance. They will be relocated and the value of the improvements will be recognized after each case is analyzed.

I will finish by stating the following: It is frequently said that if this issue is not solved by July or by 1984, there will be no elections for you. It was said here that you will not vote. It would be a shame if this were to occur even though I know that the president has come here with the great desire to speed up the process so that you will get what you want. I must tell you that we have not taken as a threat the remarks saying that if there's no region, there will be no votes. That is your right and we will respect it. We are going to work rapidly but for the sole reason of doing justice and not for votes. That must be very clear. We have always been guided by a spirit of justice. We do not do something in exchange for something else. We will do our duty until the last day that we hold this position. I had to clarify this.

I know that there is much confusion about the subject of the constitutional reforms that will be voted on in the 24 April referendum. The constitution has been reformed. I am not going to speak long on these details but you have enough leaders who are educated, knowledgeable and learned as can be seen here. They can give you effective guidance about the virtues of the changes. Nevertheless, as Panamanians you are free to vote yes or no. That yes or no vote will count. You have the final word. The more educated of you--who have been educated due to the fact that the country is progressing and including the indians with its education programs--have the obligation to give guidance to the indian men and women before the day of the referendum.

CSO: 3248/675

SECURITY CHIEF ON POLICIES, PAREDES' HEALTH

PA090533 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] The national guard's Intelligence and State Security Corps today began celebrating another new anniversary of its foundation with a mass of thanksgiving. The religious ceremony was attended by Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of general staff; Col Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of G-2, and by other high-ranking national guard officers, government and Justice Minister Justo Fidel Palacios and other government officials were also present.

Colonel Diaz Herrera referred to the development of the Intelligence and State Security Corps, saying:

[Begin recording] [Diaz Herrera] In other places, and without referring to any case in particular, it is much more difficult to score breakthroughs in military intelligence because there is no backing from the population. Many times intelligence corps have to bleed the civilian population white, let us say, when the people are disgruntled. Therefore, I would say that the main achievement here has been the maintenance of enough peace for groups in general, for Panama's full social, economic and political spectrum, to develop normally.

[Question] Colonel Diaz, what state security measures are being taken to safeguard social peace in Panama now that the situation in Central America is worsening?

[Answer] Speaking about foreign policy in general, for instance, we pursue a policy of mutual respect and nonintervention which benefits us because we do not interfere with the security of other countries and therefore, by doing so, we preserve our own security.

There are special cases. For instance, we talked today with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. Doctor Betancur, the Colombian president, will arrive Sunday. All of these things of an international nature contribute to the country's internal security.

[Question] Colonel, how is General Paredes doing with his medical checkup in the United States?

[Answer] Actually, and as has already been reported, General Paredes left for the United States on vacation during holy week. He took the opportunity to go to the hospital in Syracuse, where he has some doctor friends, including one who has many contacts in Panama and who invited him to go to that hospital. He told us that he had a routine medical checkup there that turned out very well. He is so well that he is still traveling the United States on vacation. Therefore, we are very pleased with the state of his health and I think that the Panamanian population will be able to verify this very soon upon his return.

[Question] Did General Paredes mention anything about an alleged meeting between him and former President Aristides Royo?

[Answer] We learned through news dispatches about the report that President Royo was in Miami and that they had seen each other there. If this happened, he will probably make some comment to us when he returns. [end recording]

CSO: 3248/675

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING INCREASE--According to the National Statistics Institute (INE), the cost of living in Lima has increased by 9.9 percent due to increase in the prices of food, drinks and tobacco. [PY121351 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Apr 83 p A-1 PY]

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS--According to estimates made by the Cartagena Accord Board, foreign investments made in the Andean Group countries amount to approximately 20 percent in Peru. The largest investors in Peru are the United States, Switzerland, Panama and the United Kingdom. Approximately 22.6 percent of these foreign investments are devoted to the extraction of minerals; 13.1 percent to the manufacture of chemical substances, coal, rubber and plastic and 11.5 percent to the production of food products, drinks and tobacco. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Mar 83 p a-12 PY]

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR PUNO--On 15 March, President Belaunde Terry reported that the government has approved a 10.2-billion soles emergency plan for Puno. The funds will be allocated to resolve the problems caused by droughts in the sectors of agriculture, transportation, fishing, education, health and urban development. President Belaunde also reported that AID has decided to grant approximately \$5 million to the Banco de Materiales, adding that a part of this amount will also be allocated to Puno Department. [Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Mar 83 p 3 PY]

DONATION TO WORLD BANK--The Peruvian Government has decided to donate \$200,000 (approximately 240 million soles) to the World Bank's McNamara Foundation. The corresponding decrees were signed by President Belaunde and by Economy Minister Fernando Montero [as published] and they were published in the 19 March issue of the official bulletin. The donation, which was agreed upon by the board of directors of the Central Bank and of the Banco de la Nacion, will be allocated to give technical training to citizens from member countries of the World Bank. [Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Mar 83 p 2 PY]

BANK INTERVENED--The Superintendency of Banks and Insurance Companies and the Peruvian Reserve Central Bank have reported that the Peruvian Commercial Bank has been intervened due to loss of capital and solvency. The Continental Bank has been authorized to take over the checking and saving accounts. [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 6 Apr 83 p A1 PY]

JAPANESE DONATION--The Japanese Government has donated \$5 million to the National System of Popular Cooperation for housing, education and agriculture. [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 6 PY]

CSO: 3348/324

RUMORS OF KITTITIAN DOMINANCE OVER NEVIS DISCOUNTED

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 26 Mar 83 p 2

[Article by Gerald Llewellyn Powell]

[Text]

On the 19th September 1983, the people of St.Kitts/Nevis will with God's Help, become FREE and INDEPENDENT.

For hundreds of years many men have fomented Jealousy and Strife between the people of St. Kitts and Nevis for their own selfish purpose.

This jealousy and strife as I understand it, started from 22nd July 1628 when, Captain Anthony Hilton, who later became the first Governor of Nevis, travelled to Nevis from St.Kitts with one hundred (100) settlers and colonised Nevis.

A Mr. Ashton was so very jealous of Captain Hilton because the settle-

ment was a success, that he plotted with one of Hilton's servants to kill Hilton while he was asleep. But the plot failed.

We come now to March 1983 - more than 350 years later and what do I see happening? Jealous and envious people are saying that the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, Premier of St.Kitts/Nevis is selling out St.Kitts to Nevis. This is absolute rubbish! It is nonsense in the superlative degree.

How in the name of God can three (3) representatives dominate eight (8) in the National Assembly? I am not that stupid to believe the Labour Misleaders' lie that Nevis with 3 representatives in the

National Assembly will dominate St. Kitts with eight (8)? And I refuse to believe that the majority of Kittitians are that naive to believe such foolishness.

Let me remind those who are allowing themselves to be fooled by the Labour Misleaders who have become blinded by envy and jealousy, that Nevis had her own Governor and Legislative Assembly up to 1882. I can see nothing wrong with Nevis being restored to her former position in 1983.

For years, St. Kitts dominated Nevis and some people in St. Kitts for their own selfish purpose have

grown so accustomed to this state of affairs that they now find it difficult to accept that the time has come again for Nevis to be "FREE" to do its own thing.

The ties of friendship and blood-relation between Kittitians and Nevisians are too close for the type of pettiness the Misleaders of Labour are lamenting over. The Misleaders are jealous and envious because the Labour Party is not the "People's Choice" to lead St. Kitts/Nevis into INDEPENDENCE!

They should remember that: "Many are called, but few are chosen". See Matthew 22 v 14.

U.S. POLICY ON SOUTH AFRICA HIT, BLACK UNITY URGED

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 26 Mar 83 p 4

[Article by Whitman Browne]

[Excerpts] Recently, some West Indian Cricketers ignored the reality of suppression and murder of black people in South Africa, and went there to play for the "MONEY". Now, those cricketers are either hiding in their countries, or spending time attempting to justify their shameful action in an effort to gain sympathy.

But South Africa goes on as vicious, insensitive, and murderous as ever towards the black people there.

The U.S.A. brought sanctions against Poland to protect the rights of a few thousand union members in that country. But that same U.S.A. avoids the real issue of blacks' right to self-determination in Namibia. It votes, and breaks U.N. sanctions against South Africa on the premise that sanctions cannot work there. The U.S.A. also actively involves itself in securing the release of Russian Jews and activists imprisoned in the U.S.S.R. But Nelson Mandela with no crime other than the liberation of the minds and bodies of black South Africans, will die in jail from inhumane sentence of life plus five years. And the U.S.A. supposedly a champion on human rights stands by, unheard on this issue.

Israel never lets the world forget the six million Jews reputedly killed by Hitler. But apparently the Jews have a very short memory. Those same Jewish people who seek sympathy from the world, have a very close economic and military relationship with South Africa. It was very wrong to kill six million Jews, but the lives of 20 million black South Africans can go for nought where Israel is concerned. Israel and South Africa are even alleged to be collaborating in the making of atomic weapons to use against whom?

Today, few whites really care about the black struggle in South Africa--twenty million people who cannot vote, live decently, get a good education or share in the prosperity of their own country. It is not in white interest to have these people liberated from the bondage. But black people everywhere must be concerned about the struggle in South Africa. It is in our interest to see our people liberated. Every black man and woman raped, humiliated, jailed, killed in South Africa affects the dignity of the WHOLE black race negatively.

EX-PREMIER URGES RATIONING IN SECRET REPORT

Wilemstad AMIGOE in Dutch 23 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The Hague/Paramaribo--Since Dutch development aid was cut off 3 months ago, the Suriname economy has been deteriorating rapidly. Banking sources in Paramaribo say that this withdrawal of aid has caused the state deficit at the Central Bank to grow by nearly 70 million Suriname guilders. This week it became known that ex-Finance Minister Neijhorst had prepared a secret report in January painting an extremely bleak picture of the Suriname economy. The report was intended for the military authorities and the ministers but was leaked to some members of the Dutch media.

Bank sources in the Suriname capital claim that the debt of the Suriname Government at the Central Bank has increased from 162 to 230 million since the end of December because the Suriname state budget has been financing expenditures formerly paid with Dutch development funds. Since December the currency reserve with which imports are paid has been reduced from 350 (the figure quoted by Neijhorst in his paper) to 307 million guilders. Experts believe that this reserve will cover import costs for another 4 months. According to banking sources in Paramaribo, the government has 6 months time to come up with some answers. The importation of luxury goods will have to be severely limited in any case. The consequences of the cancellation of development aid, says Neijhorst, must be examined carefully. He claims that thinking must begin even now on how the government is to assume the costs of the Planning Office and important development plans such as the Commewijne and Corantijne agricultural projects and the Patamacca palmoil project, all formerly financed by the Netherlands. Neijhorst calls for emergency measures to put government finances on a sound basis. The need to reduce expenditures will make serious retrenchments unavoidable. An increase in existing taxes and the introduction of new taxes must also be considered.

The ex-premier believes that it is impossible for the state to finance the expenditures from its own sources. The domestic market can hardly provide the necessary capital, for private investors removed about 50 million guilders from the banks in the first weeks after the events of 8 December. The ex-premier fears that unemployment will increase greatly if the government cannot keep investments at least at the 1982 level.

Neijhorst detailed the consequences of the cancellation of Dutch aid for the balance-of-payments situation, pointing out that in the past Dutch development funds had covered 80 percent of the balance-of-payments deficit. Dutch development funds financed 80 percent of the government investments and 40 percent of the national investments. "The cancellation of aid means that one of our country's most important revenue sources has abruptly dried up," reports Neijhorst. It is his opinion that a rationing system must be considered for, among other things, gasoline and food "so that consumers will be inconvenienced as little as possible."

9992

CSO: 3214/27

OPPOSITION LEADER PANDAY RAPPED FOR INEFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 3 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

THE appointment of a Chief Justice is a very serious matter. This is because the very structure and function of a democracy are underpinned by an independent, fearless judiciary. One that no one can intimidate or muzzle. Without it, democracy as we know it, would collapse.

That is why whenever a despot gets into power, one of his earliest changes is to bring the judiciary to heel. Because otherwise the deeds and words of dictatorship would be challenged and condemned. Additionally, the despot rejects the idea of sharing power or the limelight with anyone, or being subject to any authority. He brooks no rival or alternate. For instance, there is no second-in-command, with the appropriate powers, in Cuba. Might and decision flow exclusively from Fidel Castro. And in the Kremlin, it is now the turn of Andropov to play God.

DERELICTION OF DUTY

The judiciary, then, is of critical importance to the health of a democracy, and as the leader of those appointed to ensure that rights and liberties are respected, the role of Chief Justice is particularly sensitive and important.

Surely, everyone knows this. Everyone except Mr. Basdeo

Panday, the Leader of the Opposition. It is this honourable gentleman who informed the nation that he would not participate in discussions to choose the new Chief Justice. Now this is a very serious business! It is knotted with problems.

Take the matter of dereliction of duty. By constitutional right and edict, Mr. Panday, the Leader of the Opposition, MUST participate in choosing a Chief Justice. When he accepted the role of Leader of the Opposition, he accepted the conditions. One of the prime conditions is that he participate in appointing a new Chief Justice when that post has to be filled. To accept the job, and reject a major responsibility, is another way of taking the pay and the position, but refusing to discharge key responsibilities.

The next step is a matter of interpretation. By rejecting the key function of the job, has he automatically disqualified himself from holding the position? Has he, "de facto," resigned as Leader of the Opposition? Or is it that, by refusing to accept a major responsibility, he should be fired? This column thinks he should resign.

The principal offence is against all that a free and independent judiciary stands for in a democracy. Mr. Panday has as good as told us that he doesn't

care whether democracy survives or dies.

By leaving the choice of Chief Justice to one side of the legislature, the nation runs the risk of getting saddled with a minion, or someone who may be less than the best. Fortunately, the President acted wisely and chose a man of careful competence and of absolute impartiality.

But, with all due respect to the new incumbent, was the widest possible search for talent conducted? Was he, in fact, the best? Thus, instead of emerging triumphal and unchallenged, the undisputed head of the pack, the new Chief Justice must labour under a question mark not of his doing. There will always be those who wondered whether Telfer Georges or someone else would have made a better Chief Justice. They will lurk like spectres in the High Court neither utilised nor exorcised.

This is not fair to Mr. Kelsick. It is not fair to those who may be considered as possible contenders. And it's certainly isn't fair to the nation who should be the net beneficiaries of the best talent. The indisputable best, and not just the hopefully best.

We hope Mr. Panday understands that by eroding the structure and the practice of justice, he is also kindling thoughts of dissatisfaction with the system. In more volatile regions, and some are not too far away, delinquent behaviour such as his could easily lead to a public outcry, or much worse. If Mr. Panday did not think all of these things out before taking his action, we would like to know why not.

GENUINE LEADERSHIP

Does he lack the ability to think things out seriously? Does he have the mental capacity to weigh things and to plumb them in-depth?

What we are questioning is his capacity for genuine leadership. For doing what is right and not just what is expedient. For acting with responsibility and dignity rather than with pique and rashness. Perhaps he has been psyched by too many defeats at the hands of the PNM. Perhaps he has lost his nerve, his cutting edge and his thirst for success. Perhaps he likes things so, the way they are, with him forever being the second fiddle player, content to play the occasional note and to be given the occasional reward, but lacking the confidence and perhaps the temperament to take a truly frontal position.

There is yet another aspect to Mr. Panday's decision not to participate in the choice of a new Chief Justice. The invitation to sit down in discussion did not come from the Prime Minister. It came from the President.

The President is the Head of State and much honour and importance are attached to his position and role. By turning his request down flat, he has acted with discourtesy and has virtually told the nation, many of whose members voted for Mr. Panday, that he doesn't give two hoots about the President.

All of these thoughts should have occurred to Mr. Panday from whom we would have expected more considered, statesmanlike and dignified action.

We are disappointed especially as it is part, albeit a large part, of a continuing process of disappointments at all levels in this society. Invisibly at first, but more visibly as time goes by, these ill-considered activities by our leaders are beginning to leave the country an impression and a feeling of don't-care, abandoned hope, disregard for propriety, rule and order, and an embracing of the view that it's every man for himself and the devil take the hind-most. We thank Mr. Panday for making our plight worse.

It is because of behaviour such as his that the Opposition itself and the role of the Leader of the Opposition has tumbled to such disgusting disrepute. He has eroded leadership. He has damaged the fabric and the importance of intelligent opposition. Gone are the days when we could look to the Opposition as an alternative. A reservoir of good that we could summon when things go bad. The way realities are at present, the nation has virtually been instructed to accept anything, no matter how bad, because the alternative to the incumbents is worse.

UNHAPPY CHOICE

We are certain that if a poll were taken, we would find that many people would be unhappy with the choice of Mr. Panday as the Prime Minister. Yet, a Prime Minister's role must forever be within the sights of a Leader of the Opposition. He must forever be ready and willing to take on the mantle of leadership. His role in life is not to oppose endlessly, but to improve the lot of the nation through sound contributions and to have himself and his team ready for the baton of power, when the nation passes it on.

What Mr. Panday has done, in our thinking, has driven yet another nail into the coffin of the Opposition. It is dead, and demonstrations in support of that thinking are always available for anyone who should forget the demise of truly vigorous voices and intelligent political alternatives. To that important line in the Anthem calling for God to bless the nation, we now exhort God to save the nation.

ROBINSON CONTINUES TOBAGO CONTENTION WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Press Conference

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

THE TOBAGO House of Assembly will seek independence for the sister isle if it cannot achieve negotiated settlement within the union of Trinidad and Tobago acceptable to the representatives of Tobago.

This was emphasised by Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), at a Press conference at the Holiday Inn yesterday. He released to the media the report of the THA for 1982 and gave details of conflict between the Central Government and the Tobago House of Assembly.

Mr. Robinson flanked by Deputy Chairman Dr. Jeff Davidson and Assemblyman Mr. Hochoy Charles said: "No way in the world can we accept or tolerate what is going on at the present time. The House of Assembly passed a resolution asking for a negotiated settlement."

He said he wrote Prime Minister George Chambers a week ago drawing attention to the terms of the resolution. He had not yet received a reply.

Mr. Robinson said: "What we

want is a negotiated settlement within the union of Trinidad and Tobago. But if the Government treats us contemptuously, if they think we don't matter and they have power, if they think they are almighty and we are mere underlings and have no voice or no strength, they are making a sad mistake and they are going to find out."

He said the relationship between Central Government and Tobago was the most backward in any part of the world. He felt the message was not getting over so they (Government) will resort to guns."

While he did not see any evidence of it, "their approach was leading to it."

MASS MEETING

The Tobago House of Assembly is controlled by the Democratic Action Congress led by Mr. Robinson. DAC is a part of the Opposition Alliance in Parliament.

Mr. Robinson explained that his alliance partners understood the position of Tobago.

He said that no time frame was yet set for the negotiated settlement or failing that to pursue the road to independence. A mass meeting would be held in Scarborough on Sunday, April 10 to discuss the matters with the people.

Referring to discussions with the Prime Minister, Mr. Robinson said he had indicated to the Prime Minister major areas of concern of the Assembly and the Prime Minister promised to look into the matter but in the meantime the situation had grown worse.

Mr. Robinson said that while the Assembly was still pursuing judicial interpretation of the statutory provisions relating to the function of the Assembly in the Act, the Act could be used as a basis for a negotiated settlement.

He said Government had rejected the Seemungal proposition. Government had put the Act and now Government was rejecting the Act.

He added that the system exist in Tobago was designed to create chaos rather than peace.

Lack of Assembly Fund

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 3 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

MR. A.N.R. ROBINSON, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, has said that there is no Tobago House of Assembly Fund set up by Central Government as provided for in the Act.

He said that if the fund had been set up the Assembly would be in a position daily to know the exact state of balances, but the system proposed by the Assembly to Government was turned down, "and there own system imposed."

"We do not know from day to day what is happening," he said, and

claimed that the system of accounts was far from being in accordance with the Act.

In the report of the Assembly for 1982, which Mr. Robinson made available to the media, the Assembly stated that no reference is made to the fund and nowhere can the fund be identified.

"The financial provisions of the Act are completely ignored," the report stated.

Mr. Robinson also said the Act provided for the Minister of Finance to discuss the Tobago budget with

the Chairman of the Assembly but that the Minister had not done so.

The report claimed that the Assembly "has no control over staff or system of accounts. They are the Assembly's accounts only in name and not in fact, emphasising responsibility without authority."

The report claimed that there were instances of arbitrary and contemptuous conduct on the part of Central Government.

Letter to Chambers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

THE TOBAGO House of Assembly is prepared to hold discussions with Government "aimed at resolving the current crisis in its relations with the Central Government."

A letter to this effect has been sent by Mr A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House, to Prime Minister George Chambers.

The letter stated in part that the Assembly noted with satisfaction the conciliatory public statements made within recent times "and holds itself in readiness for the commencement of discussions."

Mr Robinson attached a copy of the resolution passed by the Assembly calling for the House to take "all proper and necessary steps to terminate the present unjust union of Trinidad and Tobago" and to secure its replacement with a union based on acceptable conditions or full independence of Tobago.

The letter, dated March 18, stated: "I wish to assure Mr Prime Minister that our primary desire is to obtain a just settlement within the Union of Trinidad and Tobago."

"It is only if this proves impossible that we will consider ourselves forced, regretfully, to pursue the alternative of the Independence of Tobago."

Also attached to the letter was a statement made in the House of Representatives in 1979 by Leader of the House, Mr Kamaluddin Mohammed, relating to the Seemungal report.

CSO: 3298/531

ONR'S HUDSON-PHILLIPS: PUBLIC HAS LOST CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Mar 83 p 15

[Text]

RECENT public disclosures about corruption in one Government contract by the Chairman of Statutory Board has shaken public confidence in the whole Government of Trinidad and Tobago, according to Mr Karl Hudson Phillips, Political leader of the ONR.

"Suspicions which have been there for many years, have now surfaced to expose the Government in all its nakedness," Mr Hudson Phillips told a meeting at Bournes Road, St James, on Tuesday night.

The ONR leader added: "For many years the empirical evidence has suggested that there is massive corruption in high places. The population has pointed to the life styles of certain politicians and displays of wealth which could not be justified on the salaries paid to high-up Government officials."

"Ask anybody who in the Government is on the take and there would be no hesitation to call certain names."

THE GILPIN

"What the disclosures about the Sam P. Wallace affair have done is to confirm and concretise in the minds of the population that their suspicions are indeed fact - more so, political fact."

"The handling of the disclosures by the Government has deepened the moral and political crises in the country. The attempts by the Attorney General to 'explain' away the lack of Government action in the matter has only served to deepen the lack of confidence which the population now has in the Government."

"Most of all, the Prime Minister himself has been revealed as a person who does not have the political will or moral standing to take decisive action. His silence now is in marked contrast to his pre-election statement about 'sharpening the gilpin'."

The ONR leader felt that the present Prime Minister was attempting to imitate the style of his predecessor. The difference was that the former Prime Minister had suitably more political power which in times of crises he drew on to make the population believe that he was studying hard to come up with some plan of action.

"Nobody believes that the silence of Mr. Chambers will be ended by some startling announcement or Cabinet shuffle," Mr Hudson Phillips said.

"The obvious course of action for Mr. Chambers at this stage is to do something which will restore the country's faith in his own honesty and that of his Cabinet colleagues. No token gesture will suffice at this stage."

"The least that can be done is that he should drop from the Cabinet, Statutory Boards and Local Government Authorities all those persons whom the population knows, and he must know, have tarnished reputations."

"Short of that, he should himself accept personal responsibility for corruption in the establishment and resign."

The ONR has called for a Commission of Inquiry into corruption Mr Hudson Phillips recalled.

PROBE CALL

"This was not a radical proposal. IN 1978, with less glaring evidence, the Chief Justice of Jamaica was put to head a wide-ranging Commission of Inquiry into corruption."

"More recently in Israel, the Government appointed a judicial inquiry into the Beirut massacres. What such commissions of inquiry achieved was first of all to demonstrate to the population that the Government had nothing to hide."

"Secondly, action was taken on the recommendations of such commissions of inquiry."

"The Government has refused, point blank, to appoint a commission of inquiry. As much has been said by the Attorney General. The excuse given is hardly plausible in the light of recent events in Trinidad and Tobago."

"There was a College Bar Inquiry. Even the Prime Minister less than two years ago appointed William Demas to inquire into the very racing complex and Malabar housing scheme."

"As long as the allegations of corruption within the Government remain unanswered, Trinidad and Tobago will be effectively without political direction unless we are to assume that the vast majority of the population just does not care."

"In less than eighteen months since the last general elections, the population is now listening to facts and figures which so many people just refused to hear."

"A psychological barrier has been broken and the flood gates of public opinion are flowing strong," Mr Hudson Phillips said.

OPPOSITION, GOVERNMENT ROW OVER MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Mar 83 p 16

[Text]

OPPOSITION Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo has called on Government to disband the Ministry of Information. He said it was serving no useful purpose. Funds used for the Ministry could be used in other areas.

His comments were made during the Senate debate on the Finance Variation of Appropriation Bill to vary expenditure in the 1982 Budget.

Replying, Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, explained that the Ministry of Information operated as the central public relations department of all the ministries.

Rather than have all the ministries do their own things in relation to advertisements and economic leverage, it was the sensible thing to do to ensure that the little monies for advertising were maximised to ensure greater leverage.

Senator Jacelon said too that the business of the various ministries was also transmitted to the population through the Ministry of Information so that the population would know what services were provided.

It was no sense having services and the population did not know what was available. The Ministry of Information was doing a good and well-organised job, he added.

Senator Jacelon said that the funds transferred to the Ministry to which Senator Basdeo had drawn attention were used for advertising.

Senator Basdeo had drawn attention to expenditure of \$735,457 for the Ministry of Information, one of the five heads given increased expenditure in the variation which recorded savings from three heads of expenditure.

Senator Basdeo said that the Opposition was seriously questioning the utility of the Ministry of Information and whether "we can conduct campaigns to publicly praise the ruling party."

VENERABLE LADY

He claimed that it was no more than PNM propaganda aimed at propping up a "tottering PNM regime."

He said that Ministry was a ministry for PNM information and "we must separate PNM information from State information". In some autocratic regimes, he said, the Ministry of Information had become the nucleus of destruction.

Referring to Minister of Information Senator Muriel Greene, he said: "We have a Minister who is innocent of what the ramifications could be...a very venerable lady."

TALKS CONTINUE WITH TEXACO OVER RETIREMENT, RETRENCHMENT

Texaco's 'Hard Line'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] Labour Minister Errol Mahabir yesterday held another round of talks with Texaco executives to defuse the retirement crisis at the Ponte-a-Pierre refinery.

The Minister is to meet with Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), representatives for the Texaco workers, this morning and again with Texaco on Friday.

Texaco, a multi-national with the parent company in the United States, wants to retrench about 2,000 refinery workers because of the worldwide slow down in the petroleum industry.

Indications are that the oil company is taking a hard line at the talks and counter proposals by the OWTU and Mr Mahabir have been rejected.

The company wants the retirement age to be reduced from 65 to 60 years which would enable it to send home about 1,500 workers.

A week ago, Texaco served notice on the union and 409 workers that their services will be terminated by April 15.

The refinery is at a standstill in terms of processing as the catcracker has been shutdown to facilitate servicing.

A 90-day processing agreement between Texaco and the State to handle crude from Trintoc expired last March 31 and Cabinet is to decide on extending it for another period when it meets on Thursday.

Government Proposals

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

LABOUR Minister Errol Mahabir has advanced additional proposals to break the deadlock in a retrenchment row between Texaco and the Oil-fields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU).

Following a weekend of talks with the parties, Mr Mahabir outlined two more propositions to soothe the retirement age crisis forcing more than 1,500 workers to take an early pension.

Texaco and the union, too, made additional counter proposals — Texaco, Mr Mahabir said, advised him that it would withdraw retrenchment notices served on 412 refinery workers if the OWTU agreed with the company's retrenchment plan.

The OWTU told the Minister that its members slated to be retired wanted the pension to be calculated not on the three-year final average but on the final salary.

Texaco last year advised the Labour Ministry and OWTU that it had to enforce a retrenchment programme to keep its refinery at an economical level. About 6,800 workers are at the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery and Texaco plans to displace more than 2,000.

The reduction of the retirement age from 65 to 60 would take care of 1,500 workers but the OWTU objected to the plan and insisted that "not a man must go".

The union's team, led by President George Weekes, met with Mr. Mahabir at the labour office, Cipero Street, San Fernando, and discussed the retirement age issue.

Mr. Mahabir said he held several meetings with the union and company, most of which were with the company during which he attempted to ascertain from the company whether in the light of the proposal submitted on behalf of the workers to him by the union, the company would be prepared to accept changes in the settlement formula which he had presented to both parties on February 25.

CONCESSIONS

The Minister said that the company had first of all formally advised

him that while it strongly believed that the offer which the company had originally made was fair and satisfactory, it was reluctantly prepared, in the interest of arriving at a settlement, to make concessions.

Mr. Mahabir said that the company also formally advised him that if agreement was reached, it would withdraw the notice of retrenchment involving 412 short-service workers which was served on March 25.

He said that the company's immediate reaction at the meeting held on Good Friday was to reject the demands made on behalf of the workers.

Mr Mahabir said he asked the company to consider certain aspects of the proposals and to supply him with certain financial data. Arising from those discussions he made the following additional proposals to both parties:

For those who have attained age 60 or over on the effective date and retire as of that date:

Basically, pensions will be payable for the lifetime of the member, and guaranteed for a minimum of ten years. However, member may elect to have a lifetime pension with the guaranteed minimum payment running to age 75.

PROPOSAL 2: In the event normal retirement age is established at age 60 in the plan rules, the existing rule which provides for a lifetime pension with a minimum of 120

monthly pension payments will remain enforced. However, the rule would be extended to permit the member at a time of retirement to elect to have his pension adjusted actuarially so as to provide lifetime pension with a minimum of 180 payments.

(At present, on retirement from pensionable service, a worker receives a monthly pension for the remainder of his lifetime. If the member dies before 120 payments are made, then his beneficiary receives the 120 payments less the number of payments actually received. In effect a worker retiring at age 65 is guaranteed payment until at least age 75 and for life thereafter.)

Mr. Mahabir said: "The union has stressed the great emphasis which the workers have placed on the demand for pension for retirees to be calculated not on the final three-year average but in the final salaries.

He said in this regard he made available to the union some conservative cost estimates supplied to him by the company.

As a result of further points raised by the union, the Minister said he asked both parties to meet today. The meeting is to be held at Paramount Building, San Fernando.

The union and company have agreed to meet tomorrow with the Minister at Riverside Plaza Port-of-Spain, at 1.30 pm.

CSO: 3298/532

UNION CALLS FOR ENQUIRY INTO PORT DEBT TO WORKERS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Apr 83 p 1

[Text]

THE SEAMEN and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union (SWWTU) is calling for a commission of enquiry into what has been described as a scandalous situation relating to the payment of \$4.6 million to dockworkers last year for virtually doing nothing.

The report on the "idle" dockworkers was highlighted in the "Guardian" on Tuesday, but according to the union yesterday, the information was released to embarrass the SWWTU while it is in the process of negotiating a new three-year contract with the Port Authority.

A union release noted that the figures were released not to the union, but to the public "with which this union has no quarrel."

The release added: "Any company, Government or otherwise which can give away \$4.6 million in one year to workers for idling, more so the people's money, deserves appointment of a commission of enquiry immediately."

According to the "Guardian" report, the workers in the Authority's transport section collected \$4,605,410 for the year ending December 31, 1982 for virtually doing nothing while on "standby" duty.

This figure was in addition to \$13,663,249 paid to the 235 drivers and operators last year for productive labour.

The report said that it was understood the Authority was determined that "these costly and fraudulent practices" should be stopped and had called for the cessation of all stand-by labour in present counter proposals.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The union, in calling for an inquiry, has suggested the following terms of reference:

1. How long has the Port Authority been hiring private equipment?
2. From whom have they been hiring the equipment?

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3. Why was \$4.6 million paid to idle workers whose only crime was they were not provided with the tools to perform their duties?

4. Why wasn't at least half of the \$4.6 million not used to purchase equipment for the Authority?

5. Why do Authority officials prefer to rent equipment from private contractors at fantastic rates rather than purchase their own equipment?

6. Why the Authority did not recover from the shipping agents charges for use of the two \$7.5 million cranes, four diamonds and 15 forklifts used for container operations?

7. Why have these officials paid over \$400 million during the past 10 years to rent equipment from private contractors?

8. Who are the officials responsible for negotiating these costly and expensive rental of equipment from private contractors. What was the commission paid and to whom?

The union said the \$4.6 million payment to the dock workers was just the gravy in this costly transport pelau from which the Government has already recovered more than 60 per cent through taxation."

The union asked how much of the \$400 million paid to private contractors was recovered.

The SWWTU said as a responsible union, it was not condoning the payment of wages and salaries to unproductive workers "but just as private enterprise has an obligation to its shareholders, the trade union has an obligation to its members."

The union said at no time during the past 12 years, especially since the beginning of container operations, was the Port able to provide at maximum more than 50 per cent of the equipment required daily.

It pointed out that cranes were rented at \$1,000 per hour, lifts at \$75 per hour and carriers at \$300 per hour.

"All that the union is requesting is that the Authority provide the necessary equipment for standby.

"We are very concerned but more so over the \$400 million paid to private contractors who are eating all the meat and leaving the gristle and bone for the 235 transport drivers. After all, simple mathematics would reveal how many times \$4.6 million could go into \$400 million," said the union.

BRIEFS

FURTHER UNION DECERTIFICATION--The Communication Workers' Union (CWU) has been decertified as the recognised majority union to represent workers of American Life and General Insurance Company (Trinidad) Limited (ALGICO). Under the Industrial relations (Certification of Recognition) Regulations, 1972- Regulation II--Revocation of Certification of Recognition, the Secretary of the Registration, Recognition and Certification Board, Mr E. Keith, has stated that the LAGICO Staff Association of 17-19 Pembroke Street, Port of Spain, will now be the recognised bargaining unit for the company's monthly-rated employees. According to Mr. Keith, the recognition is effective from February 7. This is the second time this month that the CWU has been decertified as a bargaining unit. The CWU created history earlier this month when it became the first union to be decertified by the Industrial Court--with respect to Holiday Inn workers. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Mar 83 p 1]

COMMERCIAL BANK INCOME--The National Commercial Bank (NCB) has announced that its net income before tax for the six months ended December 31 was \$7,883,259 which represents an 18.8 per cent increase over the corresponding period for the previous year. These figures are preliminary unaudited financial results, said the bank's chairman and managing director, Phillip Rochford. Mr. Rochford said in the period under review the bank achieved its plan of moving towards the consolidation of its branches. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Mar 83 p 6]

EVICTIIONS FROM CARONI LAND--San Fernando--Unauthorised occupation of its lands is causing concern to Board of State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited. The company said yesterday that it estimates that there are more than 2,000 people illegally occupying its lands. Caroni said that recently in the Edinburgh and Waterloo areas more than 60 squatters occupied six of the company's recently harvested fields. The company is taking steps to evict the unauthorised occupants. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Mar 83 p 14]

ALLIANCE OF ELECTIONS--San Fernando--Nizam Mohammed (ULF) Tabaquite of the National Alliance on Tuesday night warned that if the Government postpones the local government elections, "the whole country should be mobilised" against such action. Speaking at a Rio Caro meeting Mr Mohammed said that the citizens should demand that the elections be held next month as scheduled. Supporting his call was Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday who said that the

people were facing too many hardships--lack of water, inefficient electricity service, high cost of living and now problems in the oil sector. "They are fed up with the present state of affairs and the only way the problems could be resolved is through change," he stated. He called for "meaningful change" to rid the country of the corruption and lack of amenities. Meanwhile, the Alliance will hold a meeting this evening starting at 7 o'clock at the Chaguanas Fly-over. It is expected that the following candidates to contest the election in County Caroni will be presented: Gandhi Rohan (Las Lomas-Chin Chin), Lennox [name indistinct] (California-Exchange) Moolchan Seuchan (Waterloo-Perseverance) Vinshu Tikasingh (Felicity-Wyma) Hassarat Parkers Ali (Charlottesville-Bejucal), Sharif Ali (Phoenix Park-Claxton Bay) Charles Persad (Freeport-Todd's Road) Sam Jattan (Longdenville-Enterprise) Baboolal Balkaran (Brasso-Tabaquite) Dennis Singh (Montrose-Esmeralda) and Howard Maharaj, (Chase Village-Edinburgh). [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Mar 83 p 7]

INTERUNION RIVALRY--San Fernando--Inter-Union rivalry is causing industrial problems at the German firm, D.S.D. which is engaged in mechanical work on the erection of the Methanol and Urea Plants at Point Lisas. That is the impression Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperative Mr Errol Mahabir got after talking with the company and officials of the recognised union on Wednesday on matters relating to a reported lock-out of some 1,500 workers by the firm. The Brotherhood of Construction and Industrial Workers Union, bargaining body for the workers, reported to the minister that D.S.D. locked out the workers earlier this week. Mr. Mahabir said yesterday that arrangements were being made by the Registration Recognition and Certification Board to have a count to determine which union had the majority of the workers at D.S.D. The Brotherhood Union is being challenged by newly-formed United Construction Workers Union, led by Mr. Cecil Clyne. The United Construction Workers Union has applied to the Board for recognition as the bargaining body on behalf of the workers of D.S.D. and also on behalf of the workers at Kajima. The workers at Kajima are also represented by the Brotherhood Union. The Brotherhood Union through its president general, Mr. William Rampersad has accused D.S.D. of assisting the United Construction Workers to gain recognition. But that charge was denied by Mr. Clyne. Company officials could not be contacted for comment. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Apr 83 p 7]

SUGAR UNION DEMANDS--San Fernando--All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union is asking for comparable wages and improved working conditions for the 10,000 plus daily and task rated workers of State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited. Mr. Sam Maharaj, general secretary, said yesterday that about three weeks ago, the union submitted proposals to the company in an attempt to open talks aimed at negotiating a revised industrial contract. He said the company replied stating that it was doing some cost of the proposals, following which the union will be informed and a date fixed to commence talks. The last contract expired on December 31, last year. Mr Maharaj said that the union is interested in seeing that the sugar workers enjoy similar wages as those paid to workers in other government bodies. He firmly believed that the status of the sugar workers must be elevated. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Apr 83 p 7]

PNM CANDIDATE SCREENING--The People's National Movement will begin the screening today of 164 candidates for the coming local government elections. Prime Minister George Chambers, Political Leader of the PNM, is expected to head the screening committee which will begin its deliberations at 6 p.m. at Balisier House, Port-of-Spain. According to party sources, a total of 379 party groups have submitted candidates and nominations are still coming in. A total of 84 incumbents have been nominated. "An interesting feature of the nominations so far received is the age factor," said an official of the Party yesterday. "A total of 114 candidates are between the ages of 18 and 55 indicates the strength of the party among the country's young people." Candidates for St. Andrew St. David and Nariva-Mayaro will be screened today. The screening will continue with candidates from Caroni tomorrow, San Fernando, Point Fortin, Victoria and St. Patrick on Friday and Port-of-Spain, Arima, St. George East and West on Saturday. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Apr 83 p 1]

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